

Mr Mason aims to give Ulster an advisory assembly

The setting up of an advisory assembly for Northern Ireland, as the first step to a lasting settlement, has been discussed by Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, and leaders of the political parties in the pro-

vince. It would have no separate executive, but considerable administrative responsibilities; a committee system would manage a wide range of services, including housing, planning and welfare.

First step in settlement plan

By Geoffrey Smith
Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has been holding discussions with leaders of the political parties there with a view to setting up an "advisory assembly with no separate executive but considerable administrative responsibilities. That would be regarded as the first step to a lasting settlement.

Mr Mason referred, in the House of Commons last Thursday to his meetings with representatives of the parties in Northern Ireland, and said he had told them he was prepared to consider an interim arrangement. But he did not go on to specify its nature.

What is contemplated is an assembly that would operate through a committee system to administer a wide range of services. Those would consist in the first place of what are known as the "McCrory" services; those that had previously been under the control of local authorities, but were transferred to the responsibility of statutory bodies under McCrory reforms of 1976-77. Only for the abolition of Stormont, to have those services without any direct democratic supervision in Northern Ireland.

Housing, planning, health, personal welfare services and some educational functions came into that category. But in some of the discussions the possibility had been examined of going beyond rate-based services to include such activities as agriculture and commerce. In addition to these administrative responsibilities, the assembly would be a forum for the expression of Northern Irish opinion and would be based on draft Orders in Council for Northern Ireland before they were passed. The procedure would be for each party to be debated in detail by the assembly and, for any recommendations, to go to the secretary of State in the form of a report. The recommendations would be that those recommendations would normally be accepted unless there

were strong overriding reasons to the contrary.

The proposals amount to a development of the ideas put forward during the second reading debate on the Scotland and Wales Bill last December by Mr James Molynaux, leader of the Ulster Unionists in the House of Commons, and leader of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition until it broke up. But it would be misleading to give the impression of a cut and dried scheme that is being put to the parties for their agreement.

The tactics are more subtle than that. The Secretary of State is stimulating a dialogue on or which it is hoped that agreement along these lines will emerge. The intention seems to be to draw the ideas of the parties rather than to risk any impression of imposing a solution from Westminster.

As Mr Mason made plain in the Commons on Thursday, the talks have been conducted separately with each party. The general procedure has been for him to discuss the broad principles initially and then for more detailed negotiations to be held with three civil servants led by Mr David Ford who has been seconded from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Northern Ireland Office.

The technique of drawing ideas from the parties rather than placing a specific menu before them has meant inevitably that the discussions have gone into more detail with some parties than with others. In at least one case there has been the somewhat judicious position of the participants not being quite sure what ideas they were being encouraged to present.

It is a central feature of this approach that, while the establishment of such an assembly is designed to be no more than a first step, neither the substance nor the timing of the second step should be discussed at this stage. Only by concentrating on the first step

Continued on page 2, col 3

Postmen get 100n headline

Coalfield moderates join the pay clamour

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Whitley Bay

A critical challenge to the last bulwark against a pay-free-for-all in the autumn is being mounted by an unlikely coalition of left-wingers and moderates among miners' coalfield leaders.

The TUC insistence on suspending the 12-month rule, permitting only one rise a year, will come under fire from the moderate Nottinghamshire coalfield and the militant areas of Yorkshire, Scotland and South Wales at the policy-making conference of the National Union of Mineworkers opening at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, today. There is now a serious risk that the miners will reject any restraint on pay and go for big rises from November 1.

If that happens, the postmen's action might spread. Mr Jim Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office workers, has called on the men of a court of inquiry appointed last week into the dispute over trade-union recognition.

The unions involved, the Association of Professional Executives and Computer Clerks (Apex) decided on Friday to continue mass pickets at Grunwick while the court of inquiry is held.

Under the strict terms of the TUE policy, the 12-month rule is binding on all unions, and the miners would not be

allowed to negotiate any increase in pay, except through productivity bargaining, until March next year. Both Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the NUM, and Mr Lawrence Daly, the general secretary, have voted to accept this policy of the TUC general council.

But Nottinghamshire miners are calling on their leaders to "seek to achieve £135 a week from November 1 for the highest paid face workers, with appropriate rises for all other pit men."

The left-wing coalfields have rallied around a "demand" that the NUM executive should negotiate £110 at the face, backed by the threat of industrial action. Face workers get a basic £71 a week, although average take-home pay is calculated by the union at about £47.

Ministers will be watching keenly the pay debate tomorrow which, after a weekend of intense manoeuvring, will turn on competing brands of pay militancy united by a common insistence on free bargaining after phase two of the incomes policy expires.

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"We should be relieved of waiting a further 12 months from the last increase because that will take us into a third year of wage restraint," he said. "If our industry is to get the manpower it needs to survive, we must be permitted to negotiate from August 1 for wage increases to come in from no later than November 1."

Mr Clarke's militancy may be taken with a pinch of salt, but there is no doubting the determination of the militant coalfields to score a political triumph against the TUC's 12-month rule. Their motion berates the NUM executive for "failure" to achieve pay targets set by previous policy conferences, and lays down precise wage rates to operate from November 1, £110 at the face, £90 for workers elsewhere underground and £80 on the surface.

The final leg of that package will give a warning in his presidential address that the Government and the TUC should not take for granted pit pay moderation, but his present view is that having pledged themselves to abide by phase two the miners should not go back on their word and seek increases before their agreement expires next spring.

His position is reinforced by the TUC early declaration that productivity bargaining and improvements in occupational pensions schemes will be allowed after the end of this month. These gateways towards free collective bargaining will open through an incentive bonus scheme in the pits, probably operating from November, that will give face workers up to £20 a week more and will also permit the introduction from August 1 of the industry's first early retirement scheme.

The NUM executive meets this evening to decide its attitude on the two wage resolutions. With a split of 15-10 in favour of the moderates, it seems likely they will support Nottinghamshire and oppose the left view, while preserving proprietary rights over pay between conferences, thereby mitigating the impact of pay pressure.

Pay pact moves, page 2

Senior civil servants to join TUC

Mr Carter 'out to wreck' Salt accord

In a survey of American defence policy decisions, Pravda has accused President Carter of starting a fresh spiral in the arms race in order to wreck the chances of a new Salt accord.

Page 4

Less rail vandalism

Segregating football supporters on special trains as far as possible and extra policing during journeys have largely eliminated railway hooliganism. The cost of damage last season was under £5,000, compared with £10,000 the previous year.

Page 3

England unchanged

England's selectors have chosen the 12 who drew the first Test match at Lord's against Australia, for the second Test starting at Manchester on Thursday.

Page 6

Prize for Andretti

Mario Andretti, of the United States, driving a Lotus, overhauled John Watson, of Britain, in a Brabham, to win the French Grand Prix. James Hunt, in a McLaren, was third. Page 7

Mr Mugabe rejects peace force proposal

From Nicholas Astford

Libreville, July 3

The Anglo-American peace initiative on Rhodesia received another blow today when Mr Robert Mugabe, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, advised the two Western powers to stop thinking in terms of drawing up an independence constitution and instead concern themselves merely with the direct transfer of power to the nationalist guerrilla forces.

He rejected suggestions for setting up an international peace-keeping force, saying that "only Zimbabweans are going to be keepers of peace in Zimbabwe".

Mr Mugabe was addressing a press conference here after the opening of the fourteenth summit conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). His remarks followed a strong attack last Friday on the Anglo-American peace plan by his co-leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo.

However, Mr Mugabe made it clear that the Patriotic Front was prepared to meet Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, when he undertakes a tour of southern Africa later this month.

It was pointed of Britain to continue talking to all the parties concerned with the Rhodesian issue, he said. "In the final analysis we have to decide whether the time has come for us to call the peace or whether the struggle must continue."

"We shall only agree that the time for peace has come when, in addition to the

transfer of power, we also

have our own forces to safeguard and consolidate that power. Only then will we agree that full power has been transferred to the people of Zimbabwe."

Accordingly, there won't be any need for anyone to keep the peace for us. We will be our own peace-keepers."

He went on: "We do not have in mind what the British have in mind—that there should be an independence constitution which incorporates an electoral roll based on one man one vote and a bill of

rights of some kind. All those issues do not amount to anything until the fundamental issue of who actually holds the power in a free Zimbabwe has been determined."

However, the Anglo-American initiative received important support tonight from General Obasanjo, the Nigerian head of state, who told the meeting that he hoped it would succeed.

Africa, he added, should welcome any initiative from any quarter which would minimize bloodshed and create conditions for racial harmony. He called on OAU members to increase

their support for Rhodesian nationalists movements.

One of the subjects which the OAU heads of state will be discussing during the present summit will be the question of giving exclusive recognition to

the claims of the nationalist movements led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabanele Sithole. Mr Mugabe said he regarded this issue as very important because, if approved, it would mean that

the Patriotic Front would

Continued on page 4, col 5

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HOME NEWS

Liberals take heart from Mr Callaghan's rebuke to the left

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Mr Callaghan's forecast to the all-Wales rally of the Labour Party on Saturday of a glowing future for Britain if Labour can stay in power was seen by Conservatives yesterday as yet another attempt to rally Labour backbenchers behind the shaky structure of the Liberal-Labour pact, and to win support from trade union leaders for a more restrictive phase three than they appear willing to accept.

Tory leaders noted that Mr Callaghan was vague when he came to wages policy. The first task, he said, was to beat inflation.

"Until we do, every wage rise which is not met from higher production is a ticket to the dole queue. That is why it is important to reach a renewed understanding with the next union movement for the next months, and the unions which will bring decisively from the inflationary spiral that has plagued us."

Conservatives found it significant that Mr Callaghan is apparently now linking the next wage rise with higher produc-

tivity, taking a "sterner line" than either he or the Chancellor adopted earlier in the year when there was much talk about an "easier, more flexible approach".

What has happened, the Conservatives claim, is that the unions have become completely confused about the Government's aims and this will add greatly to the difficulties of the negotiations.

In the light of recent union demonstrations, Conservatives demurred it difficult to accept the implication in Mr Callaghan's reference to "the question most often put by the pundits—Is Britain governable?" Labour's answer, Mr Callaghan said, was that it could be.

Our answer is to say: "Look at the record and the improvement." He was comparing the present situation with that of February 1974, when there was a confrontation between the Conservative Government and the miners. The Labour Government had, he said, brought conciliation and cooperation to a nation which was working three days a week.

Mr Callaghan's evident desire to move forward to a period of closer collaboration although he obviously had to choose his words carefully to avoid giving

too much offence to the Labour left.

Looking ahead to the new session, Mr Callaghan said the Government would be bringing forward new proposals on devolution and the Bill for direct elections to the European Parliament. Liberals were delighted with "a passage where he seemed to support the idea of proportional representation not only for European elections but also for those to Westminster."

Mr Callaghan emphasized that Labour Party members belonged to a democratic socialist party and were proud of it. They put democracy before privilege.

He was responding to the question of an All-Sectarian Parliament, where one man's vote counts the same as another.

If that meant anything, Liberals said, it meant that Mr Callaghan backs some form of proportional representation and it could mean a lot of trouble for him in his party.

Mr Ron Hayward, the Labour Party general secretary, has said that if ever proportional representation were adopted for Westminster elections, Labour

could say goodbye to any idea of creating a socialist Britain.

The Prime Minister said another Bill next session would try to extend industrial relations to the workplace. He conceded that the Government were not bright enough to be able to be chairman of a start-up business, but there is no going back on our commitment of principle.

Liberals are insisting that in any schemes for industrial democracy or profit sharing, trade unions shall have equal rights with members of unions. Mr Callaghan said:

"We must seek to broaden our political democracy into an industrial democracy. Relations in the workplace have improved a lot since the 1970s but they have not done anything like far enough. Workers cannot simply be ignored or dismissed from decisions which are vital to their future."

Steel and the Liberals

have been pressing for an extension of civil liberties and the introduction of the long-delayed measure to repeal the oppressive sections of the Official Secrets Act. Mr Callaghan made a passing reference to this but gave no promise.

Governments always have to make laws to meet more public welfare, and lower taxes, and I don't need to tell you how people feel about higher taxes—you hear it every day—so there is a limit to how much the state can do."

The Prime Minister spoke of the evolution of the National Enterprise Board, to increase its scale and power.

We need more planning agreements in the interest of industry, workers and the nation. We need to renew our public ownership should not concentrate on whole industries, under one single management.

In future there should be more diversity. There is far more scope for cooperative ownership as well as those which are already established. We are pledged as a party to set up a new cooperative development agency in the 1980s. I look forward to seeing this idea expand."

Another area where Labour needs to develop its ideas, Mr Callaghan said, was in community care and the role of voluntary bodies.

State welfare is not the only kind of welfare and it is not the only way to provide for our own responsibilities as members of a family, as citizens and as human beings.

I should like to see us use the benefits of the oil revenues to support our policy of rebuilding and modernising our industries so that our workers in the 1980s will be in the plane to compete in the international market on equal terms with the best in the world."

Campaign return

Temple Bar launched

By a Staff Reporter

On the well-ordered law Lincoln's Inn this evening Anglo-American campaign the return of Temple B the City of London ope earnest.

Several hundred lawyer City officials, with memb the public who wish to c hance, will each pay £1 for entry to a garden pa aid of rescuing Wren's year-old arch from its ex Hertfordshire wood to r it in the north-west pre of St Paul's Cathedral.

American lawyers who undertaken to provide over half of the £500,000 required will be represent the party. Mr Alex Meyer, of Chicago, vice-chairman of the American Foundation for Temple Bar.

Lord Widgery, the Chief Justice, Lady Wil and the trustees of the Temple Bar Trust, formed at the end of last year under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Will will be the joint hosts, with organiser is M Tyndale Daniel.

After listening to piano music by the Savoy Opry guests will be able to see exhibition. Mr Charles P a former clerk of works Paul's, has assembled sum paintings, items of timber, masonry and assorted sphe which together form a pictorial record of the gateway's ful history.

An account book lent by City Corporation shows payments made in 1670 to J Marshall, master mason, John Bushnell, sculpor four royal effigies adorning bar of £1,090. Ten years Bushnell earned a further probably for two her beasts.

One fascinating exhibit Slime sheet of rice paper appears only to show Te Bar by moonlight; on the paper to a strong however, the scene change one of Queen Victoria pass through the bar on her via the City on November 9.

Another exhibit Valerie, Lady Meux, the barmaid, who organized removal of Temple Bar Theobald's Park in 1818, swaying languidly at camera from among the pill of her four-poster bed.

Both these last exhibits been lent by the principal Theobald's Park College, adult residential centre whose grounds the bar stands.

Other exhibits include model of the bar made in materials over many years paintings and engravings showing the bar decorated to celebrate various royal visits to City and during the funerals of Nelson and Wellington.

There is an improbable drawing from The Graphic showing elephants passing through gateway for the Lord May procession of 1876 and it are some cartoons from Punch depicting the pair of Londoners at the memo erected in 1880 outside newly built Law Courts to memorize the bar's demolition two years earlier.

Photographs by Charles Gringan taken at Theobald's Park earlier this year, show effects of weather and vandalism on Wren's once lo monument.

TUC will try to preserve 12-month pay pacts

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

In the dying weeks of phase two the TUC is preparing to resist several unions that it believes will try to break the spirit or the letter of the 12-month rule for pay settlements.

The next period of accord on pay seems likely to be little more than a loose understanding, and the 12-month rule is possibly the best the Government can hope for in ensuring that there is not a surge of pay claims after July 31.

Among those who have settled under phase two but may return for more soon after July 31 are London dockers, Post Office engineers, train drivers, the Musicians' Union, the cine technicians and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS).

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, said: "I shall feel under no constraints. I consider it is now every man for himself."

Blasphemy case hearing begins today.

The blasphemy prosecution brought by Mrs Mary Whitehouse against the homosexual newspaper Gay News and Denis Leman, its editor, starts at the Central Criminal Court today.

Mrs Whitehouse was given leave by a High Court judge last December to bring a criminal prosecution alleging blasphemous libel. She complains that an obscene poem and illustration vilifying Christ in his life and crucifixion was published in Gay News last year.

Mr John Mortimer, QC, has been briefed for the defence. The case comes before Judge King-Hamilton, QC, and is provisionally estimated to last two weeks.

Mrs Whitehouse, chairman of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, made a private application to Mr Justice Bristow at the High Court last December.

Royal pendant for sale

Princess Margaret is selling a pearl-shaped emerald pendant at Sotheby's on Thursday. The pendant is expected to fetch between £3,000 and £4,000 but the royal association could push the price higher.

It is argued that only by using the regional list system

other groups are postponing settlements due under phase two in the hope of doing better later. Among them are English clearing bank staff, Fleet Street journalists, 55,000 gas workers belonging to the National and Local Government Officers' Association and 2,000 Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association.

If the new understanding turns out to be largely meaningless, the Government sees the 12-month rule as the best way of preventing a wages scramble and the TUC sees it as the most painless way of easing the transition to free collective bargaining.

Public-sector workers will bear the brunt of the Government's efforts to confine wage increases and the signs are that 4 per cent to 5 per cent is all that is possible with the strict cash limits placed on local authorities.

The first big test comes in November, when one million blue-collar council workers are due for a rise, thus opening

Support among Tory MPs for regional list system

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Conservative MP for Edinburgh, Pentlands, and a former front bench spokesman on Scottish affairs, said last night that between 80 and 90 Conservative MPs are likely to vote in favour of the regional list system of proportional representation in the European Parliament.

This is well over the opposition whips estimate, and leading Tories said last night that the number will be much smaller if the party decides to vote for the first-past-the-post system when the committee stage of the direct elections Bill is reached.

One of the leading advocates of the use of the traditional voting system said last night that when the principle of proportional representation was put to the vote during the passage of the devolution Bill only about 40 Tories voted for it.

Others may have been swayed to support its use for the European elections, sample out of previous elections, not wanting the elections to be delayed, making Britain the "odd man out".

It is argued that only by using the regional list system

the bargaining season through to next summer. That deal usually gives an indication of what other public-sector workers can expect. Hospital workers, 200,000 postal workers and 45,000 manual gas workers follow in December and January.

The National Union of Railwaysmen, which, with the other two rail unions, settles in April, is the last big union conference later this month to discuss pay after the miners and transport workers this week.

On July 15 national level talks open in London on a 15 per cent claim for £8,000 hourly paid Ford workers, operative from October 21, a figure much higher than anything the Government has been talking about.

The TUC is expected to prepare a statement at its next general council meeting later this month which will form the basis of its report to the congress in September.

Government will ignore defeat on vehicles Bill

By Our Political Correspondent

could the elections be organized in time for the target date of May or June next year. But those Tories who want the first-past-the-post system, including Mrs Thatcher, doubt whether deadlines can be met whatever system is used and believe to delay the elections.

They say that if a decision in principle could be made by the Commons before the summer recess, Britain's 81 Euro-contests could be drawn up and electoral arrangements made in time for elections in the autumn next year.

Mr Rifkind said last night that perhaps the most vital argument in favour of the regional list system was that it would ensure a Labour delegation of reasonable size.

If first-past-the-post is adopted it is probable that Labour candidates will be overwhelmed by Conservatives and nationalists in Scotland.

Mr Rifkind said that the practical elimination of Labour representation would be a great victory for the anti-market forces in the Labour Party and would do the European cause untold harm.

Ulster votes needed for devolution

Continued from page 1

crease Northern Ireland representation and is therefore proceeding with a Speaker's conference devoted solely to that question.

The terms of reference that the Prime Minister is proposing for the conference are absolutely clear: the post. They will be held on July 20 in a later half-week.

To consider and make representations on the number of parliamentary constituencies that there should be in Northern Ireland, to appear at the conference.

There are some official

Irish police investigate report of gun smuggling

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

Irish Special Branch detectives were yesterday investigating a report that arms for the Provisional IRA were landed last month at a deserted beach in Co Cork, two miles from Kinsale, one of the most fashionable seaside resorts in the republic.

Half of the 38 councils that have made settlements under phase two have, not implemented the 5 per cent formula which enables workers earning more than £50 to get more than £2.50 a week in rates.

The unit also says that 19 councils gave less to 18-year-olds than to adults under phase one, and four had confirmed the same error in phase two.

That was despite TUC guidelines that adult rates applied from 18.

The arms were said to have been taken by car to Dundalk and held in a safe house before being taken to Belfast.

The report came as an embarrassment to the Irish authorities, who have been anxious in recent months to play down the extent to which the Provisional IRA relies on the republic as a supply base and as a relatively safe location for IRA leaders to hold their meetings.

Yesterday the police in Dublin said that the Garda knew nothing of the masters referring to until they were published in the paper. The allegations were under investigation.

As well as pinpointing on

way in which the republic is used as a landing place for illegal weapons and as a location for IRA training camps, the article also provided a detailed account of a recent meeting of the Provisional IRA's seven-member ruling army council at a house in Sutton, a seaside resort a few miles outside Dublin.

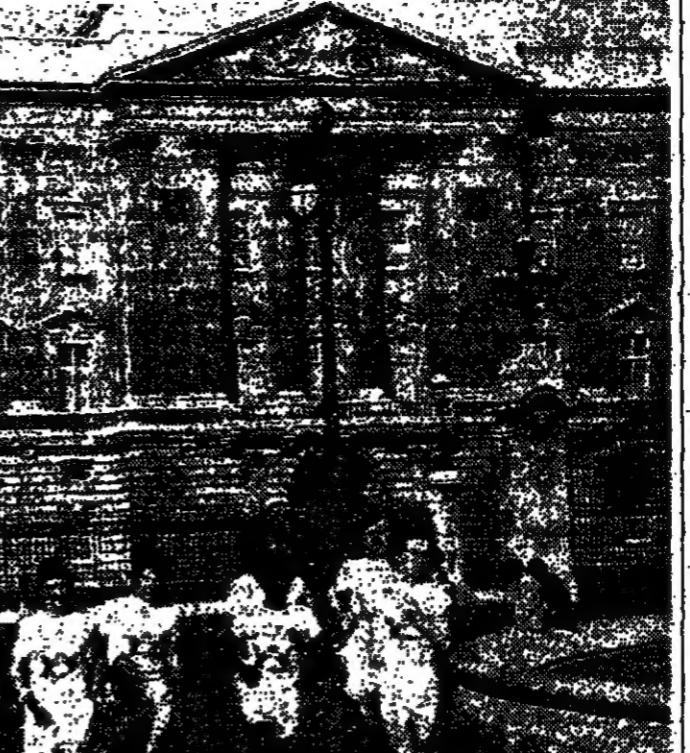
Mr Frank Mitchell, principal

of the independent Wakefield Tutorial School, West Yorkshire, said some GCE awards were merely "failure certificates".

Only the three top grades A, B and C were equivalent to a pass under the old system. The remaining two grades D and E were failures.

An official for the Joint Matriculation Board, whose pupils are the Wakefield pupils, agreed that D and E grades corresponded to a failure in previous years.

"The idea at the moment is for pupils to leave school with some form of certificate," he said. "I do not believe that pupils should be applauded and congratulated by the whole



Jubilee marathon: Boys from St Andrew's Club, Westminster, taking part in a relay endurance run past Buckingham Palace. They covered 300 miles in less than 18 hours. Proceeds will go to the Silver Jubilee Appeal and the club.

Employers told that lower GCE grades are worthless

A headmaster, who refused to present "worthless" GCE certificates at his school speech day, called on employers yesterday to accept them.

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Weather forecast and recordings

MONDAY PRESSURE is shown in millibars FRONT WINDS: Wind direction. Symbols are advancing edge

of low pressure. Symbols are retreating edge of high pressure.

NOON TODAY PRESSURE is shown in millibars FRONT WINDS: Wind direction. Symbols are advancing edge

of low pressure. Symbols are retreating edge of high pressure.

Today Sun rises: 4:30 am Sun sets: 9:24 pm Moon rises: 9:11 pm Moon sets: 11:22 pm

Last quarter: 7:00 pm Full moon: 10:22 pm High water: 11:00 pm Low water: 4:48 am 7:46 am 10:42 pm 5:55

HOME NEWS

Campaign
turn
simple Bar
reached

Senior civil servants in favour of affiliation with TUC

By Peter Hitchens

The membership of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, which represents senior officials at the highest levels in Whitehall, has endorsed the decision of its executive committee to seek affiliation to the TUC.

The result of a ballot to be published today shows 56.8 per cent in favour of affiliation and 42.5 per cent opposed after a high poll in which 78 per cent of those entitled to vote took part.

The issue is probably the most controversial faced by the association in its 58-year history. It inspired a debate among top administrators on the question of whether a link with the TUC would jeopardise the "traditional" political neutrality of the higher Civil Service.

The First Division, apart from the Diplomatic Service Association, was alone among public service unions in remaining outside the TUC. But the master was especially sensitive as many of its members are constantly engaged in providing confidential advice on policy to ministers.

For that reason the association's leadership took great pains this weekend to reassure the doubters, especially senior Conservative politicians, that the impartiality of their members would not be impaired by the result. Their argument was that the move was simply a matter of finding a more effective forum in which to pursue improvements in pay and conditions for their members.

Mr Norman Ellis, the association's general secretary, said last night: "We are particularly well-equipped to draw the line between the political and the non-political. In the future nothing will change; we will

continue to be scrupulous". The association's leadership is well aware that, although Mr Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, has stated publicly that the Shadow Cabinet has no objection to its membership of the TUC, many senior Conservatives continue to harbour private doubts. Tory sceptics have not been helped by the spectacle of other passengers being terrorized by supporters who were relatively rare.

Even more impressive, the improvement was achieved while increasing football travel, instead of curtailing it as Mr Howell, Minister of State for the Environment, was urging the railways when vandalism was at its height in the winter of 1975-76.

Credit goes largely to Mr Humphrey Todd, British Rail's inter-city manager, who has a surprisingly relaxed attitude to the Football supporters compared with some. "They are not angels, but they are not animals, either," he says.

"Many are uneducated and illiterate, but they are human and personal, and their propensity to violence is the same as that of the average male."

Faced with terrified passengers, ripped out seats, paint spray damage and broken windows, the previous winter, British Rail worked out a seven-point plan later confirmed by the Industrial Relations Act, 1971.

The association is in evidence to the Armitage committee, which is considering the rules governing the political liberties of civil servants, has recommended that the restrictions applied to the grades not be eased.

The First Division hopes to achieve affiliation in time to take part in the TUC's annual conference in September. Its membership of the TUC should also ease the way to an eventual merger with the Institution of Professional Civil Servants.

It is unlikely that the association will suffer many resignations because of today's result. Mr Gerry Flanagan, its chairman, wrote privately to the 150 permanent- and deputy secretaries among its membership seeking their views. Although about half expressed reservations in varying degrees of intensity, few indicated they development.

Money worries seen as threat to families

Marriage difficulties which can be traced directly to strain over family finance are being reported by many advice-centres according to the annual report of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

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Other exhibits include: "Many bureaux report that the bar on marriage difficulties are trials over many years arising directly from money things and savings trouble, in general, and debt in the bar decorated in particular, and during the various royal visits.

and during the reigns of Nelson and

Queen Victoria had the bar on marriage difficulties on November 1, 1858, exhibit.

Items of single men and women, who organised clubs and associations, and the like, were particularly heavy in Scotland and north-west England.

Showing property and land,

with £60,000 inquiries was the largest category after family matters but the total was 11,000 fewer than the previous year.

Fifty-four new bureaux opened and 18 closed during the year, bringing the number in the United Kingdom to 710. The report adds that expansion will be halted unless further government aid becomes available.

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The Government's view of the report was made known recently by Mr Selsky, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He said the plan for preventive medicine would have been too diffuse and the scheme would have been too difficult to administer.

It raised problems of financial incompleteness and would have required more staff in his ministry's development and advisory service.

Generally known as the Swans report, the document made many recommendations for the development of veterinary science in relation to agriculture, the most significant of which would cost £1m. A specially built Law Court at the Royal Veterinary College at Newmarket. That would be ruled out because the bar's debts were too large.

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It raised problems of financial incompleteness and would have required more staff in his ministry's development and advisory service.

During the next period of the report, the unusual signals were recorded by microphones arrayed up at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in New York. These strange noises were regularly heard from May 24, 1976, when the Concorde began regular flights between Europe and America, and always occurred about half an hour above the British Isles. The sounds were very brief, daily, and occasionally as a result of differing conditions in the atmosphere. The rough direction of arrival of the sounds could be calculated

There is growing veterinary

opinion that a limit must be set to state control and interference.

Some controls, such as national

experiments, should be

carried out by governments, but many maintain that, as in law and other professions, people should be left to

decide for themselves what to do first.

The most extreme contend that, in that way, the better farmers will

be able to profit from

private advice.

Others believe that, if the

Government's proposal to

allow lay assistance to relieve

qualified veterinarians at

present is adopted, it will

lead to a better service.

The poultry industry has

been the prime example of coordinated

knowledgeable efficiency in

recent years, with the pig industry

now becoming increasingly

concentrated into larger

units under fewer owners. It is

here strange, therefore, that a

government poultry health scheme

should be followed a few years ago by a

pig health scheme.

The poultry industry largely

goes its own way, and makes little

use of government diagnostic

laboratories. With about three

quarters of breeding-pig sales now

handled by only a few big

breeding companies, a similar sit-

uation is growing to the pig-health

scheme. Yet that is one of the few

activities that Mr Selsky hopes to

see carried out by the teaching

schools. Unfortunately, while

arguing that university funds are

primarily the responsibility of the

University Grants Committee

(and not the universities), the

Government's intention of providing

extra money to those bodies. Yet

a relatively small number of

veterinary experts can save a great

deal of money in agriculture.

One positive action emerges

from the wreckage of the Swans

report. The Government has

agreed to ban the eradication of

warble fly in the autumn of 1978.

When the government animal

health division excels in disease

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WEST EUROPE

The Kremlin softens line on European communists

Moscow, July 3.—The Soviet Union indicated today that it was keen to avoid a public dispute with West-European Communist parties on the issue of Eurocommunism and was ready to acknowledge their desire to pursue independent policies.

But at the same time it seemed clearings that the search for a progressive answer to national interests should not merge with "right-wing opportunism and submission to pressure from the class enemy".

The twin messages were issued in a communiqué on radio over the past few days between Soviet ideologists and a survey of East European parties' comment on the first anniversary of the East Berlin conference of European communists.

The Italian delegation came to Moscow amid a furor aroused by a harsh Russian denunciation of Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish party leader, for his recent book *Eurocommunism and the State*, in which he was strongly critical of internal Soviet policy.

Sources close to the delegation, which returned to Italy last night, said they felt the Soviet leaders had miscalculated the likely reaction among other parties to the attack on Señor Carrillo and were anxious not to exacerbate the situation.

They pointed out that confirmation of this came in the communiqué, published in today's edition of *Pravda*, which was drafted by the Russians and included a key phrase expressing the Italian view on national roads to communism.

The opinion was expressed in the communiqué that the contribution of each party to the common international cause is inseparably linked to its independent search for an elaboration of its own policy.

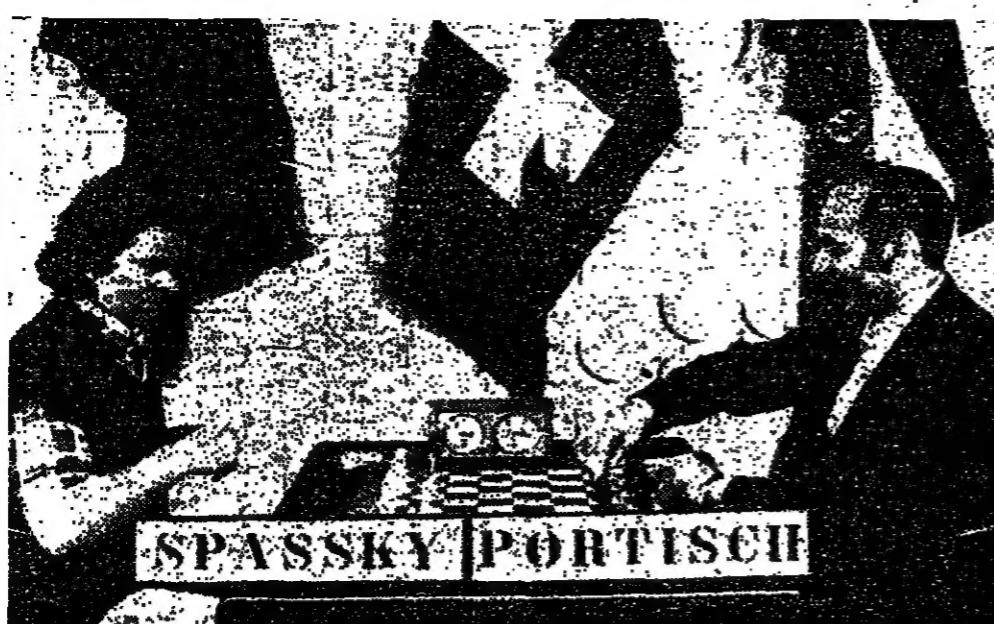
At the same time *Pravda* also published a report from Prague quoting the Czechoslovak party newspaper *Rude Pravo* as saying—in an apparent reference to Señor Carrillo's programme—that the Berlin conference had rejected any policy that meant "subjection of the working class to the capitalist system".

The sources close to the Italian delegation, which was headed by Signor Giacomo Pajetta, the party's foreign relations specialist, said it had basically "agreed to disagree" with Moscow on Eurocommunism.

The Soviet side, headed by Mr Mikhail Suslov, the chief Kremlin ideologist, had argued that Moscow had been forced to reply to Señor Carrillo's book because the Spanish party leader had attacked the Soviet Union, the sources stated.

In response, the Italians had declared that open discussion of differences was correct but that the tone of the Soviet article—which many commentators had seen as suggesting Moscow wanted him drummed out of the world movement—was unacceptable.

The sources said that Signor Pajetta had told Mr Suslov and his colleagues that although the Italian party might not agree with all of Señor Carrillo's views, it would defend him because it could not accept any implied Soviet right to proclaim him a heretic. Reuter.

**SPASSKY PORTISCH**

World chess: Boris Spassky, the former Soviet world champion, waiting for Lajos Portisch of Hungary to make a move at the start of their world chess championship semi-final in Geneva yesterday. Portisch, who played black, proposed a draw after 21 moves and Spassky accepted it. It was a game totally devoid of the aggressive play the two are famed for. Spassky, who lost his world champion title to Bobby Fischer of America in 1972, said he was confident he could win back his title. The winner will meet the victor of the other semi-final tournament, which is

being held in Evian, France. Their final will determine who will challenge Anatoly Karpov, of Russia, the ruling world champion, for the title next year. In Evian, Viktor Korchnoi, the expatriate Russian grandmaster, won his opening game yesterday against Lev Polugayevsky, of the Soviet Union. In the game, begun on Saturday, Korchnoi played white. Polugayevsky abandoned it after 60 moves. He seemed to have been taken aback by a surprise knight move of Korchnoi's and although he used up half an hour to give his reply, he could apparently find no satisfactory defence.

Money already transferred to more sheltered climes**Dwindling assets explain decline in flight of French capital**

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, July 3

There is an apparent paradox in the fact that despite the divisions within the French Government, the spectacular success of the left in the municipal elections last March, and the threat of a financial crisis in the left wing, the general climate next year, the flight of capital from the country, both legal and clandestine, has been distinctly less marked this year than in 1976.

If less French capital has found its way to Switzerland, the United States or West Germany, to be stowed away safely in foreign stocks or bonds, or even in numbered accounts, the reason is simply that the great bulk of what was available for transfer had already gone.

When socialist leaders are asked whether the coming of the left to power would provoke a rush of Frenchmen for the Swiss frontier with suitcases full of banknotes or gold napoleons, as in the aftermath of the students' and workers' upheaval of 1968, they reply that it has already happened.

This is borne out by the official statistics of the Bank of France. In 1976, the deficit on capital transfers was 8,733m francs as against 1,569m francs in 1975, which coincided with two peak periods: in March, when the franc was fighting a losing battle against the Deutsche Mark and finally gave in by leaving the European "snake", and in August, at the time of the change of government when the full extent of the inflationary threat was revealed.

This does not mean that in the weeks running up to the election there may not be another run on the franc, as there was last year. But a great deal of capital export can still be carried out, perfectly legally under present legislation. There is no restriction in France on the purchase of foreign stocks and shares, provided it is done through French banks. Investments abroad are allowed up to a limit, depending on circumstances, of 1m or 2m francs.

Until September of last year, any Frenchman could buy property overseas up to a value of 300,000 francs. This has now been cut to 150,000 francs, which does not purchase more than a cowering on the shores of Lake Geneva. In the Swiss Canton of Valais, 30 per cent of all property investments are made with funds from France.

Small and medium-size firms have less liquidity. At the same time, the French Government, which has given up the impractical idea of attempting to search all vehicles of passengers at the frontier, or of examining all capital transfers through banks disguised as bogus commercial enterprises, has, it is true, as faith on high interest rates and indexed loans.

Finally, there is another factor in the present decline in the flight of capital: the general election is not until next March and people are unwilling or unable to tie up their money in Switzerland or elsewhere until a month ahead of the crucial date, particularly when economic indices tend to undermine the thesis of the inevitability of a left-wing government.

Another way is to buy goods for a certain amount and to declare a third more, which then paid in a foreign bank account. A third, widely practised by artists, professional people, pop singers and the like, is to under-declare one's earnings abroad and bring back only part of them.

Police said the sect, in Egyptian newspapers, Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Pravda accuses President Carter of starting new arms race in order to wreck chances for Salt

Moscow, July 3.—The Soviet Union today accused President Carter of starting a fresh spiral in the arms race and suggested he could be deliberately trying to wreck the chances for a new treaty limiting development of strategic weapons.

The accusations were made in a survey of Mr Carter's defence policy decisions over the past few days published by the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* in its authoritative weekly review of world affairs.

The *Pravda* structures were seen as reflecting the Soviet Union's view of American defence spending as a sign of moderation or restraint. There was no other way out, *Pravda* added, than to abandon peace and declared with all their voices: "Down with the Cruise missile and Trident submarines". Reuter and AP.

Mr Carter's decision to go ahead with the mass production of the B1 bomber "can hardly be taken as a sign of moderation or restraint".

The White House had in hands too well tied by pre-election promises to prevent production of the cruise missile.

The *Pravda* structures were seen as reflecting the Soviet Union's view of American defence spending as a sign of moderation or restraint.

After attempting to review the 1974 Vladivostok provisional SALT agreement and impose on Moscow terms for an accord that would have given America unilateral advantages, Washington was now "moving on to the path of stopping up military preparations", *Pravda* reported.

The President's decision to go ahead with the development of the Cruise missile was "shocking witness of this turn of events". It is well known how

voted the (Cruise) question has been in the Soviet-American debate. The United States is starting a new spiral in the arms race. This was a conscious decision, for financial and it served only the enemies of peace and the monopolies of the military-industrial complex."

The Soviet Army newspaper, *Red Star*, also added its voice today in the attack on the American "rush" to create new weapons. It said that the contradictions of capitalism had

"no offensive weapons would be supplied".

The *Red Star* added its voice to stop production of the Minuteman intercontinental missile, a weapon the United States has been making for the past 17 years, Administration officials said.

"In the past few days the United States has carried out the test of its nuclear submarine-launched ballistic missile," *Red Star* said. It has announced it will soon mount the Trident missile, which has the highly-accurate MG12A nuclear warheads on American strategic rockets.

"The American press is giving glowing accounts of the possibilities of neutron bombs and warheads as a means of mass destruction of people," *Pravda* said, noting that it had also revealed Pentagon plans for ever more destructive and dangerous weapons.

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American help likely for army in Lebanon

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, July 3

The United States is considering help for Lebanon to reconstruct its armed forces which ceased to exist during the civil war there.

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The President's decision to go ahead with the development of the Cruise missile was "shocking witness of this turn of events". It is well known how

intentional is obviously extremely delicate. The Israeli military mounted another incursion into southern Lebanon last week, and the continuing rivalry between Lebanon and Palestine forces there could easily lead to renewed fighting. Any Lebanese army equipped by the Americans might be thought more to the Israelis than to fight them. But the possibility of any American involvement in such a situation disturbs many people.

Meanwhile, the United States continues to make for larger quantities of arms available to Israel, and prepares for the visit here of Mr Begin, the new Israeli Prime Minister, later this month.

Houla, Lebanon, July 3.—United Nations officers today arranged a ceasefire on the most important front in war-torn southern Lebanon.

But sporadic fighting continued near the border village of Yarin, only 200 yards from the Israeli border.

Yarin was stormed by fighters yesterday after a fierce five-hour battle, but later it was surrounded by forces of Lebanon's leftist-Palestinian alliance. Reuter.

Prisoners of conscience**Namibia: Victor Nkandi**

By David Werts
Mr Victor Nkandi is a leading member of the South West African People's Organization (Swope), which opposes South Africa's continued rule over Namibia.

The United Nations formally assumed direct responsibility for Namibia in October, 1966, after revoking the mandate over the territory granted to South Africa by the League of Nations in 1920. However, South Africa refuses to recognize the authority of the United Nations in Namibia.

Mr Nkandi was first arrested in August, 1975, after the assassination of Cetin Filimon Elias, Chief Minister of the Ovamboland Bantustan. Mr Elias was held incommunicado and without charge until March, 1976, when he was called as a witness in a trial of six other Swope supporters charged under the Terrorism Act.

He and another detainee, Mr Axel Johannes (Prisoner of Conscience, May 24, 1976) refused to testify, alleging that they had been tortured during interrogation by the South African security police. As a result, both men were sentenced to a year's imprisonment for contempt of court.

Mr Nkandi was due to be released from Windhoek prison on February 28 this year. However, on that day he and Mr Johannes were re-arrested by security police and transferred to the main interrogation centre at Oshakati in northern Namibia. Former detainees who report that they both have been seriously ill-treated.

In a Dominion Day message to the nation, Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said that the national birthday this year was being celebrated "under the dark cloud of a serious threat to our freedom".

St John the Baptist is the patron saint of French-speaking Canadians.

In a Dominion Day message to the nation, Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said that the national birthday this year was being celebrated "under the dark cloud of a serious threat to our freedom".

But neither can it be denied that in the shadow of that threat, and because of it, we are beginning to rediscover how important we all are in each other and how profound would be our loss if the Separatists succeeded in dividing us.

Smith drift to moderation drives Mr Frost to resign

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, July 3

For a country supposedly threatened with dismemberment Canada has just celebrated a remarkably joyful hundredth national birthday.

The national celebration was a remarkable success, with the approval of the Organization of African Unity political committee last week, it is thought to be largely due to the efforts of Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, who was instrumental in securing the support of the United States policy towards South Africa.

On the positive side, Mr Frost said, there was "no reference to the one-man, one-vote system for South Africa. Instead the secretary had spoken of 'full participation'.

Commenting on Mr Vance's

pledge that America would take part in the search for racial justice and peace in South Africa, Mr Frost said: "Presumably racial tolerance, justice, peace and stability have been secured in the rest of Africa."

In promoting American support for individual human rights, the Secretary of State had made no mention of any African state other than South Africa apart from South Africa's continued rule over Namibia.

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The Russians are clearly concerned about what they feel is an anti-Soviet tone developing within the OAU, particularly the organization's present preoccupation with the interference issue.

Terrorist threat to avenge dead leader

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, July 3

In what looks like a manoeuvre to win Catalan nationalist support in the new Spanish Parliament, the Government presented this weekend an interim solution to Catalan demands for home rule within the month.

After a week of meetings between Señor Josep Tarradellas, the president of the officially unrecognized Generalitat, or autonomous government of Catalonia, and the King, Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Interior Minister, and others, the Government announced yesterday that the first step had been taken towards the re-establishment of home rule within the month.

At a press conference yesterday Señor Martín Villa said that the current Spanish legislation could not be used to justify administrative reorganization on a regional basis, and that the Government intended to take this first step.

Later his ministry said that a "formula of transition" had been worked out in the talks between Señor Tarradellas and members of the Government.

Señor Martín Villa, the Interior Minister, said that the first step would be to reduce and employment in the deep sea ports is threatened.

Under the old North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission quota for EEC countries totalled some 169,000 tons British quota was 98,000 tons, compared with the new one imposed

American
likely
army
Lebanon

OVERSEAS

Uganda and Tanzania to keep E Africa Community in being

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi, July 3.

United States is to send its armed forces to exile.

Soviet Union, which are now cond-

ucting a new aggressive weapon.

The State has dis-

cussed a budget for the Community in the financial year that began on July 1.

After meeting President

Amin, Sheikh Jumbe and his delegation had formal discussions with a Ugandan delegation led by the Vice-President, General Musa Odris.

It was later announced that they had signed an agreement to provide funds for Community services up to September 30, with Tanzania contributing 31 parts to Uganda's 21.

The Authority has not met

since 1970 because President

Nyerere, then its chairman,

refused to sit at the same table

with President Amin, who seized power in Uganda in January, 1971.

Tanzania's Vice-President,

Shakil Aboud Jumbe, was told

by President Amin yesterday

that Uganda would only agree

to provide funds for the Com-

munity if the presidents were

called to meet and discuss the

southern Lebanon Communi-

ty and the con-

cern of the Com-

munity's approach to

Lebanese forces than

Kenya's new financial year

lead to renewed fighting last week with no funds

available for its services. Kenyan

Americans and officials say the Community is

more likely to be dead and Kenyan workers at

home. But the pos Arusha, in northern Tanzania,

American have been told to return home

in a situation where Kenya's attitude is clearly

influenced by Tanzanian hosti-

lity, the Unite towards Kenya, and the

us to make Tanzanian action last February

and prepares Kenya in order to cut trade

between the Israeli and other links between the

Israeli Prime Minister and

Kenyan leaders as the last

Lebanon, July 3. The border remains closed,

as a ceasefire on it to the detriment of Kenya's

front from us in

Lebanon.

Sporadic fighting

near the border may only 1,200 yards

border.

was stormed yesterday after a

battle, but later

leftist-Palestinian

Reuter.

Karachi floods

death toll

may reach 400.

Karachi, July 3. At least

170 people have died and

hundreds of others are missing

after torrential rains hit Kar-

chi. Thursday, flooding

down-shant dwellings and

disrupting city services, it was

announced today. Unofficial

figures put the death toll at over 400.

Rescue teams from the Paki-

stan Navy and other official

agencies continued search

operations in the affected

areas as rain waters began to

rise. Electricity, tele-

phones, drainage and water sup-

plies were being restored.

Most of the missing were

from the city of Karachi, the

capital of Pakistan. Mr

Abdullah Rahim, the

deputy director of the Sin-

kiang Revolutionary Com-

munist foreign affairs depart-

ment, told the journalists:

"Nearly every day we have

border problems with the

Soviet Union at some point or

another in our territory."

Mr Rahim, an Uighor, is a

Muslim, but says that he no

longer practices his religion.

He said that Chinese troops

were positioned over certain

sections of the frontier to fight

off any possible aggressor."

But he gave no details about

the number of soldiers involved

or the number of Soviet troops

involved.

Police have said the three

United Nations Chinese, aged between 20 and

25, direct respons-

es, were members of the

ambassador in October, undergound Melekean National

Revolutionary Front, a wing of the

territory granted to the

Chinese Communist Party of

China. France

However, South

recess

of the

Namibia.

It was first

in 1975, and

of Chief

Minister

Banknotes

Our Correspondent

July 3. The Opposition

Pakistan Alliance (PNA) this

morning refused to endorse an

amendment.

Air Marshal Asghar Khan,

who is considered to be a strong

candidate for the prime minis-

tership if the PNA wins the

general election in October, said

that the Government's amend-

ments would strengthen Mr

Bhutto's power in the provinces.

The Opposition had earlier

accepted the amendments, sub-

ject to confirmation by the

Opposition committee. However,

Nkandi was the first of the announce-

ments accepted by the

Opposition members.

Both the main contestants in

the predominantly-Muslim

state India's ruling Janata

Party and Shaikh Mohammad

Abdullah's National Conference

claimed illegal practices in

several constituencies by the

other side. The third main

party is the Congress Party,

which was beaten by Janata in

the general election last March.

Mr Bhutto, who had been

re-elected, accepted the

Opposition's revised draft.

However, Nkandi

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The former demands

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SPORT

Cricket

Boycott not to be recalled by England for second Test

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

After making enough against the Australians at Scarborough on Saturday, Boycott heard yesterday that he has not been recalled to the England side for the second Test match starting at Old Trafford on Thursday. For this the selectors have chosen the same 12 players who did duty in the drawn first Test at Lord's.

There seems increasingly less doubt that Boycott will be brought back, though not until one of his partners in the draw is declared fit, or fails to form up, or lets out through injury. The two who must have come nearest to that this time are Barlow and Amies. Barlow because he has a bog score of only five in his four completed Test innings and Amies due to his record against Australia, which, for such a young man, is spectacularly bad. In his last 11 innings against them in full Test matches, his scores have been nought, nought, nought, four, five, nought, 10, four, 10, four and nought.

In the centenary Test in Melbourne, Amies was dropped to No 4 in the order to keep him away from the new ball. This seemed to me to have a lot to recommend it and his 64 was made in the second-innings draw. He scored an encouraging 100, though, against the Australians in the Prudential Cup at the Oval a month ago, going in first, and it is not the intention to lower him in the order again this week.

If so, do so would mean opening the innings with Woakes, as happened unsuccessfully in

Melbourne. Going in first wicket at Lord's, Woakes made 79 and 120; it would be a pity immediately after that, to move him down.

In their last 25 Test matches (of 37 Test innings) England have had 15 different opening pairs—various permutations of Amies, Barlow, Brearley, Close, Cowdry, Edrich, Lloyd, Luckhurst, Steele, Wood and Woakes. In that time two England innings (against Australia at Lord's in 1975, when Edrich and Woakes made 111 between them, when Amies and Boycott put on 146) have been launched with a three-figure-partnership. Only on

England twelve

	Age Caps
J. M. BREARLEY (capt)	35 9
D. L. WOOD	34 43
R. A. WOAKES	29 11
D. W. RANDALL	26 6
A. V. CLOTHORPE	30 54
G. D. BARLOW	27 3
A. E. KNOTT	31 85
C. M. LLOYD	28 32
G. MILLER	24 1
J. K. LEVER	28 7
D. L. UNDERWOOD	32 70
R. G. D. WILLIS	28 25
W. WARWICKSHIRE	

two other occasions, have they reached 50 before the fall of the first wicket. Twenty-one times out of the other 33 it went down before the score was 20, 13 of these before it was 10. On statistical grounds the case for bringing Boycott back is incontestable.

Since the Lord's Test match Grenfell had been 68 against Essex, his highest figure since, and only his fourth 50 in his last 31 innings for Sussex. Knott has made a welcome hundred. Woakes has come down to earth. Barlow has scored heavily and Underwood has helped through a 60 over innings for Kent in the Gillette Cup, much more than they lost, with his 100 added to his 100 against Middlesex. Woakes was not better able to interpret the reason for that than anyone else. Barlow, too, has made a useful score within the last fortnight, though it is his fielding as much as anything that keeps him on the side for selection. The runs which he and Randall save together are a hidden asset and an appreciable one.

Miller's likeliest way of getting into the team on Tuesday is for the place to go to Broad, according to the running for selection were Hurditch, about whose form and fitness, now in one tour English batsman, average 50 (Woakes, Boycott and Barlow are the others) and Larkein, who could be the next of the younger school to be given his chance. Steele and Willey, both conspicuously unlucky not to go to India last winter, must be wondering whether their careers are over.

If so, do so would mean opening the innings with Woakes, as

happened unsuccessfully in



Edmonds, top scorer for Middlesex, hits a four

Leicestershire watch the sun disappear

By Alan Gibson

LODGE'S: Middlesex beat Leicestershire by nine runs.

It was a routine Sunday match, though a most enjoyable one. Middlesex won with a ball to spare, as is almost statutory on these occasions. It was only Leicestershire's second defeat in the John Player League this season and they must be rather cross with themselves for losing it.

Middlesex' victory keeps them towards the top of the table.

Leicestershire's loss was a

open-necked blue shirt and a beard, and stuck him nearby by the hand, under his chin.

At the end, he was Bill Findall. A lady from Bratislava, I think it was, who had missed her coach said yes, she had enjoyed the cricket much, and how could she get to Tendring when the big station was and had found a place in the same colour. I had some sympathy with her last point. Because I am suffering from the high pollen count the scoreboard was no more than a vague blur to me. Yet, after these diversions, I had to dash back to Basildon and Ilford again as a game show took command.

They were both, hardly necessarily, when Leicestershire looked as if they had the match won. Eleven were wanted in the last over, for no man, still all alone, could have done it. Booth, the man who had bowled Robinson, took the most wickets, but on the whole, Higgs was the most testing bowler.

He made a promising begin-

ning for Leicestershire.

He has

in the middle of the order during

the rest of the week, but on Sun-

day he was a bit off colour.

He had been seen earlier looking

like the fifth wicket, Walker,

though he had been beaten by

Malone, and Walker bowled

unusually yesterday and Malone's unspotted bowlers, figures which

had been set up for him, was again swinging about through the air, though the pitch itself was providing less help.

Sharp, an 18-year-old left-

hander from Basildon, in his second

first-class match, looked compact and composed in his brief stay

before he was forced to Malone and edged a catch as the ball left him. Higgs shuffled

in front of his stumps and, like

Boycott the night before against

Walker, was beaten as the ball moved back. Leadbeater, who had been in for 26 overs, gave Malone

hit freely, though he too, when

he was bowled by Carrick, already

had his wicketkeeper, the

other, out.

Most of the field had already

been picked from Yorkshire's

bones overnight. Boycott's dis-

missal in the second ball of the

corresponding fixture in

1968, which was their previous

win against the Australians

in the Second World War. On

Saturday evening it had been

Walker who proved to good. Now

it was Malone's turn.

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SPORT

Motor racing

Slow start keeps Andretti behind for all but the last half lap

From John Blundell

Mario Andretti, who ran out of fuel while leading the Swedish Grand Prix two weeks ago, found sweet revenge on the Dijon-Prenois circuit this afternoon. For several years, Andretti had been the man to beat in the 30-lap French Grand Prix, but he was beaten by the man of John Watson's Benetton-Alfa Romeo which had led the race from the fifth lap. Then, just when it looked as though his sustained effort to pass the Ulsterman was doomed to failure, the Italian suddenly faltered coming out of a left-hand bend on the exit of the circuit after the first 20 laps. Andretti forged ahead to score a victory which even surprised the Lomachenko, Colin Chapman.

Poor Watson, who has worked so hard to get a victory for the Italian-British team since joining them at the beginning of this year, crossed the line with his engine drained of fuel, and he abandoned his car at the side of the circuit after an impressive 20 seconds overtake service points. He is bent out once again in progress.

Andretti had qualified for pole position on the grid, but he drew away his advantage at the start by getting to make a mid-spin on the straight. After the first 10 laps, he maintained his lead by 10 seconds. The new leader, Watson, had led the race from the fifth lap alongside in second, and after rubbing tyres round the next two bends Andretti forged ahead to score a victory which even surprised the Lomachenko, Colin Chapman.

Mario Andretti with his rewards for patience.



spent the last 20 laps holding off a sustained challenge by Lauda, who was the last driver not to be eliminated. His strategy paid off, and he finished sixth, four laps behind the leader four laps from the end and was given a busy time, notwithstanding a strong battle with Paul Ricard in Provence. A player, because with a little more cooperation here Dijon could have become an attractive second course for the season.

Meanwhile, the challenges of the championship were point behind Nicky Lauda, the new leader, who finished fifth today, and equal with Jody Scheckter. Scheckter suffered a return of the fuel-fed trouble which plagued him during the winter, and eventually mugged off the track by an unsuspecting Regazzoni as his wolf suddenly slowed.

After an impressive return to competitiveness during practice, the Italian driver, who had won the Monaco-McLaren-McLaren, one of the new experimental Ford engines in the back, took the lead at the start and although he soon had to give way to Watson, and then lost second place to Andretti, he was still in the race.

Watson, with the blue, the double-yellow stripes, the traditional colours of authority, has now moved up to third, and is second in the standings.

Watson, who has won the race for a last four years, has now moved up to third, and is second in the standings.

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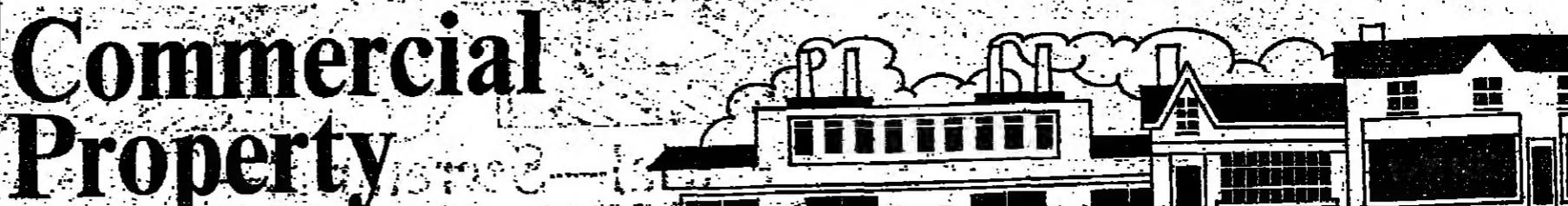
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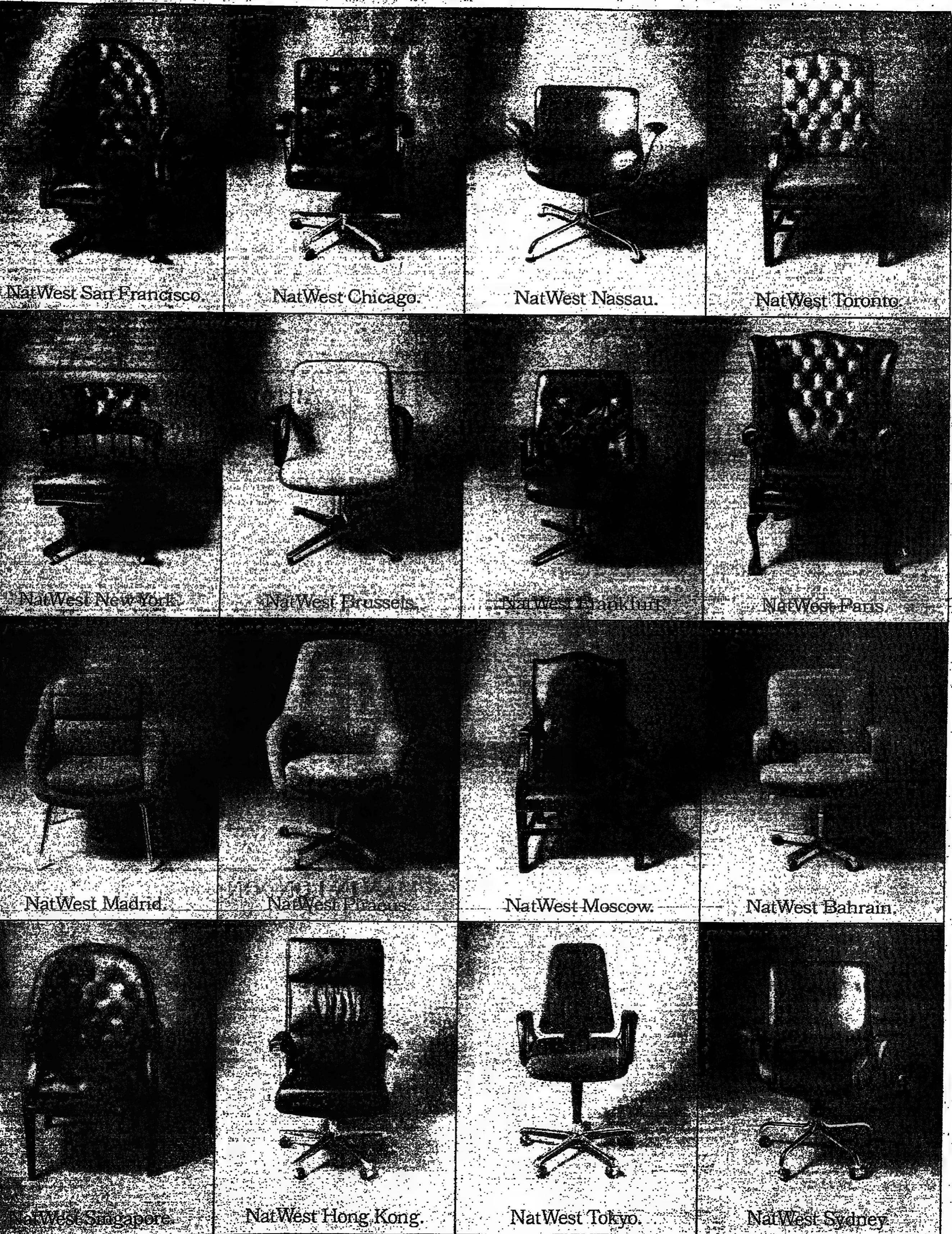
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William Chislett assesses Sr Adolfo Suárez's first year as Prime Minister

The matador who has outwitted all Spain's political bulls

Madrid
When King Juan Carlos appointed Sr Adolfo Suárez Prime minister a year ago there were many who threw up their arms in despair believing at that time that this sounded the death knell for any attempts to move Spain to democracy.

Liberals breathed a sigh of relief when the king summoned Sr Carlos Arias, his first Prime Minister and General Franco's last, on a bright sunny morning and demanded his resignation. But when Sr Suárez was named as his replacement a curtain of gloom and despondency descended upon the opposition.

Sr Arias had been a disastrous Prime Minister appointed under pressure from the Stuker, the entrenched die-hard Francoists, and while Sr Suárez was not classed in the same league few thought he was the ideal man for that delicate period.

Who better to destroy the Franco regime than a product of that same regime? Reform within the system, instead of revolution from without. Sr Suárez, the Minister of General Franco's National Movement in the Arias Government, was known to be an ambitious politician; but never as one capable of destroying the very system which had brought him to power.

With everything looking a little too rosy at the moment after the general election, which confirmed Sr Suárez in his post, it seems that a century and not a year has passed since his appointment.

It is arguable that if the king had not got rid of Sr Arias Spain would have reached an impasse. When Sr Suárez took over at the age of

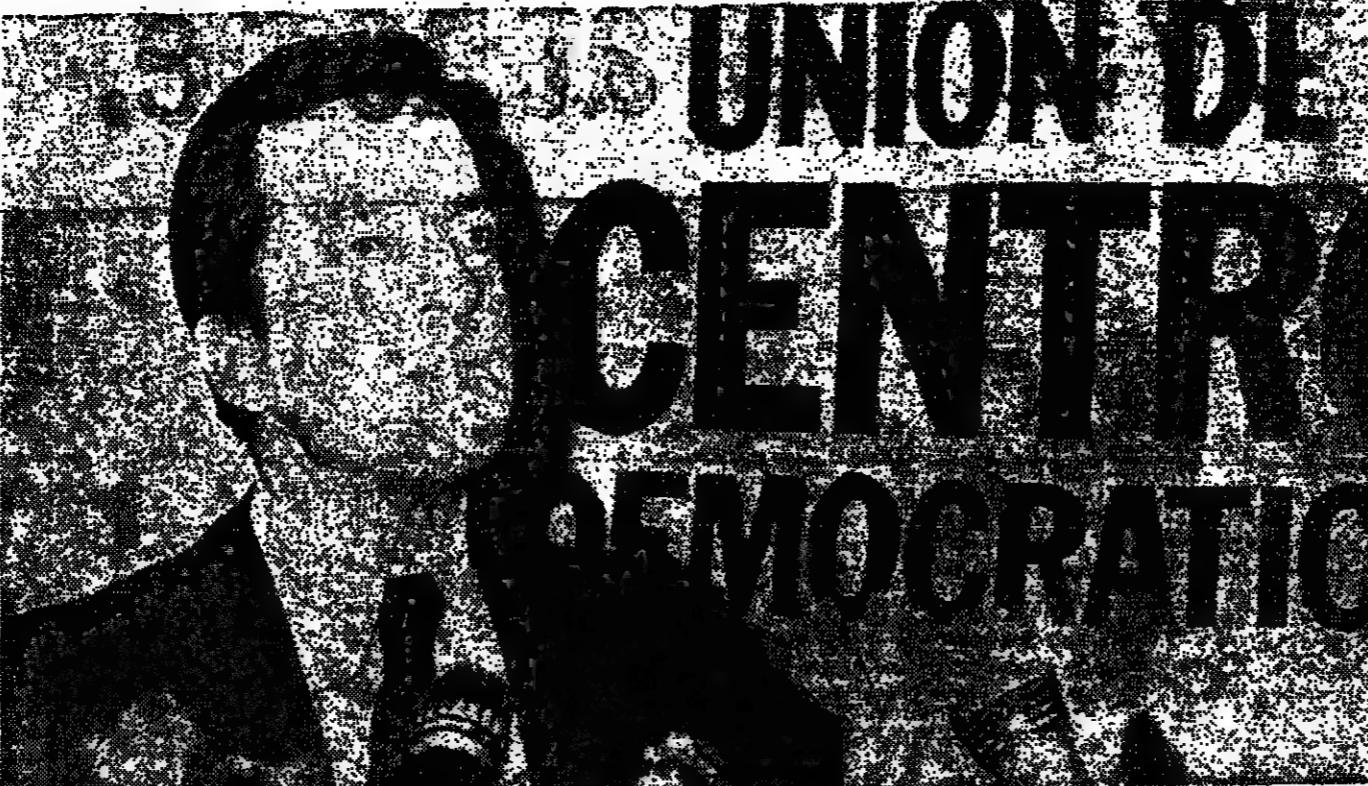
43, the transition to democracy had not even started, despite all the liberal noises made by people like Sr Manuel Fraga, the Interior Minister in the Arias Government, who refused to serve in the Suárez Government; a blessing in disguise for Sr Suárez for the true conservative colours of Sr Fraga were soon revealed when he formed the neo-francisco Popular Alliance.

The Francoists thought they would be able to control Sr Suárez, particularly as his name was put forward as one of the three candidates for the job by Sr Tomás Fernández Miranda, the highly conservative President of the Cortes and of the Council of the Realm, the liaison of Francisco responsible for drawing up the list of candidates for the king.

What they did not immediately realize was that Sr Fernández Miranda's first joy was that the king had his eye on Sr Suárez for some time for he was impressed by his sincerity, energy, intelligence and soundness.

It was no coincidence that the king chose someone who belonged to his same generation—the generation which as one politician put it, "was neither of the conquerors nor the conquered and was not traumatised".

The king, far more politically aware than he was given credit for, was still known in that dark time as "Juan Carlos the Brief". He knew better than anyone, with the memory of the fate of his grandfather Alfonso XIII who went into exile in 1931 when the republic was established, that unless there were definite changes the nickname might come true.



Sr Suárez at the press conference marking the formation of his Centro Democrático Union before the election.

"I feel and I believe that I am a democrat," Sr Suárez said when he was Movements Minister. The opposition, still persecuted in varying degrees, laughed. Sr Suárez's biography as a democrat was hardly convincing.

Born in Cebrián, a Castilian village of 5,000 inhabitants, he was one of five children of a government lawyer. Active in the Catholic Action organization he studied law on his own taking his exams at Salamanca.

His first contact with the

labyrinthine political system came in his early twenties when Sr Herrero Tejedor, who exercised a profound influence on Sr Suárez, was nominated civil governor and automatically movement head of Avila. Sr Suárez by then had become popular in Avila after starting a small private crammer. His name was recommended to Sr Tejedor, a member of the Pus Del, the lay Catholic organization.

Sr Suárez held a series of minor provincial administrative posts where he soon came into contact with the movement. He was never a committed Falangist, but like many people without money or contacts the only way to get ahead politically was to work your way up the movement, which he did.

He was remembered as dedicating himself wholly to any task in which he was involved.

(His grandfather once told him when he was a child that "if you go on like this you will be Prime Minister one day.")

He came into touch with Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, the eminence grise of General Franco, who was later assassinated by the Basque separatist ETA. When Sr Suárez was only 35, he was elected as family MP for Avila and a year later was appointed Civil Governor of Segovia. He got to know the king when he was appointed director general of the State run television in 1969 and used occasionally to broadcast programmes with him.

Four years with television and his experiences with the movement gave him indispensable inside knowledge of the intricacies of the regime. Sr Felipe González, the socialist leader, says of him: "He is a clever man without ideology. A sober Francoist who can't be identified with any of the operations or currents of Francoism." Sr Suárez kept himself impeccably above any scandal.

In 1975 after a law was approved allowing political associations within the framework of the movement he founded the Unión of the Spanish People, which ironically though not surprisingly given its "blueness" (the colour of the Falangist shirt) formed the base of the Popular Alliance, the main enemy of Sr Suárez's Democratic Centre Union in the general election.

With the death of General Franco he was appointed Movement Minister and kept a low profile. But he did not waste time as soon as he was appointed Prime Minister. There is a story told in Cebrián of young Sr Suárez running in front of the bulls during the village's annual fiesta when he was a child that "if he will find the opportunity to keep on his toes."

Sr Suárez once admitted privately that he faced opposition from the right from the opposition. Perhaps this is why even suchicians as Sr Santiago Carrillo, the communist leader, are pro Suárez. It certainly been a most difficult year for Sr Suárez and he has yet to score. Now that he has himself a mandate to see he will find the opportunity to keep on his toes.

Eric Moonman

How Labour can win an autumn election

There is no justice or generosity in politics. When it comes to the next general election, the Labour Government's achievements through several difficult years will count for nothing with an electorate which tends to vote, even in local elections where the real issues are entirely different on the state of its pocket or its stomach.

Unfortunately for the Government, the effects of political action take time to work through to the individual. Because of this it seems likely that, as in 1970, it will be a Tory government that will reap the fruits of the present Government's sacrifice of short-term popularity in favour of long-term benefits to the economy, and will preside over the economic revival which the hardship of the past two years has made possible.

Thus Jim Callaghan has a hard choice ahead of him. Either he can try to stay in government, with Liberal aid, for another 12 or 18 months, and risk having an election forced upon him in midwinter, repeating Ted Heath's 1974 experience. Or he can tackle the electorate in a positive way and go for an early election on a date of his own choosing. I'll come back to the date later. What I am primarily concerned with is the need for the Government to spell out what it has achieved now—Margaret Thatcher is not going to do it for us, neither is Bernard Levin nor Ronald Bunn, nor

even the "Militants", left, the Trots and their friends, who are after bigger game, hoping for the total disintegration of our present system of government so they can take over.

The Government has considerable achievements to its credit; to take just half a dozen items:

1. The economy

The balance of payments situation has reached a turning point with a current account surplus of £125m in the three months to April this year, the first since early 1972. This is an astonishing achievement in view of the massive deficit inherited from the Tories, the immeasurable burden of the oil price rises and the attack on the pound.

In addition, the gold and currency reserves have risen to record levels. The Government's economic policies have received the support of the IMF and this, combined with growing world recognition of the value of our coal, oil and gas reserves, has restored confidence in sterling, stabilized the exchange rate and enabled the Government to bring down interest rates. Industrial production is on an upward path, with a 3.5 per cent rise in manufacturing industries production for the first three months of 1977, compared with the same period last year.

2. Industrial relations

Industrial relations had reached an all-time low when Labour was elected in 1974,

schools, which means that there are now the lowest number of days lost through strikes since 1967. Although the figures for early 1977 are less good, Britain's record is still far better than most industrialized nations. Labour's approach to industrial relations, as seen in the involvement of the trade unions in the social contract, in new approaches to health and safety at work, and in moves towards industrial democracy, has been a crucial factor in this improvement.

3. Pensions

The Government has transformed the situation of the retired. Pensions are now obliged by statute to rise each year. In line with other average earnings of the cost of living (whatever is the greatest), and pensioners are, in fact, in real terms better off than they were when Labour came into government. In addition, a new pensions scheme has been set up which is designed mainly to take this poverty out of retirement altogether.

4. Care of the disabled

The Labour Government has taken the first steps towards better care for the disabled with a new approach to disability incomes with non-contributory invalidity pensions, mobility and attendance allowances.

5. Education

The reorganization of our education system is almost complete with the approval of 362 new comprehensive school projects, and with only a few authorities resisting the ending of selection. Seventy-six per cent of secondary pupils are now being educated in comprehensive

schools, which means that there are now the lowest number of days lost through strikes since 1967. Although the figures for early 1977 are less good, Britain's record is still far better than most industrialized nations. Labour's approach to industrial relations, as seen in the involvement of the trade unions in the social contract, in new approaches to health and safety at work, and in moves towards industrial democracy, has been a crucial factor in this improvement.

color committed a tactical error in making his biggest tax concession, which would have given a boost to every taxpayer's take-home pay, dependent on a third stage of the voluntary incomes policy. The unions, however, delivered on their promise to do so a third time, with something less, to show their members. This lack of trust may well prove fatal to the social contract.

But the Government must also explain that when North Sea oil comes on to full flow it will not stifle massive income tax cuts, social services expansion, and similar short-term benefits. If this is all that happens, the end of the Never See years—perhaps 20 in total—will see us back where we are now. The profits from the oil must be ploughed into investment in industrial production and research into alternative energy sources so that we are once again equipped to compete with other nations, who modernize their factories, two or three times as often as we do. If this is done we can lay the foundations for a permanent improvement in our national situation.

In brief, the Government must go on the attack now.

Jim Callaghan would be well advised to clear the decks for an autumn election; if the job is tackled positively and with the confidence the Government has, every right to feel, then Labour need not fear the result. Running away won't help us; meeting the electorate halfway will.

The Government should distribute some of the fruits of our three years' self-sacrifice now. I believe that the Chan-

All royal life is here, and there is quite a lot of it

The King of Montenegro, in the unlikely event of the Montenegrines deciding to restore their monarchy, is a trade investor aged 68 living in Paris. His family were comfortable middle class and Catholic in an area renowned for its religious feeling. Avila, the capital of his home province, was also the home of the mystic St Teresa.

So handsome was Sr Suárez when he was young and also quite religious that worried girls in the village, taken by his charm, asked him whether he would become a priest.

His first contact with the

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So handsome was Sr Suárez when he was young and also quite religious that worried girls in the village, taken by his charm, asked him whether he would become a priest.

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE CHINESE INTERREGNUM

Nine months after Mao Tse-tung's death China is still without a new leadership group. Many top posts are unfilled, the surviving party political bureau is under strength and ill-assorted; most plainly, Mr Hua Kuo-feng's authority as party chairman lacks the official seal. This delay is the reason why those looking for signs of change following the Maoist era find little to fasten on. Most of the attitudes on which Mao put his personal stamp survive. It is safer therefore to play the old ruses, most of all for an insecure leader who justifies the power he claimed by Mao's personal approval.

Only in certain areas has China unmistakably moved away from Maoist habits. Much the most important is in the management of the economy which now proceeds unperturbed by the constant political injections associated with Mao's singular revolutionary ambitions. Over twenty years, with the accelerated cooperatives of 1956, the great leap of 1958, going right on until the climax of the cultural revolution in the late sixties, the evidence accumulated of damage done to the economy by constant political campaigns. So much so that a consensus developed, focusing on Chou En-lai's leadership, that longed for an end to these intrusions. In the final battle with the radical Maoists it coalesced to the point where there was general agreement, irrespective of personalities. Mr Teng Hsiao-ping's maligned question: what does it matter if the cats are black or white as long as they catch the mice? has been answered in his favour.

The other area of change is defence. No formal burial is necessary for Maoist tenets of guerrilla warfare. A rational modernizing of the Chinese forces is in hand, no doubt with

the support of all but a handful of military leaders openly committed to the radical cause. It is, perhaps, symbolic that Mao's first, respected party critic, Marshal Peng Te-huai, who commanded Chinese troops in their only experience of modern warfare in Korea, should now have been vindicated both in his criticism of the great leap and for his military judgment. Indeed, it might be said that when he was driven from office for his criticism in 1959 the real rift between Mao and his colleagues began.

But look elsewhere than the economy and defence and there is little change. The door is now more open to western culture—that followed naturally on the overthrow of the gang of four. Will it lead in time to greater freedom for Chinese writers and producers? It is too soon to say. For the most part communist dogma reigns. The dictatorship of the proletariat is still inscribed on the tables. Last month *People's Daily* intransigently dismissed the possibility of communists coming to power by peaceful change. In May, almost with glee, the party paper recalled Mao Tse-tung's castigation in 1955 of the eminent social philosopher and rural reformer, Liang Shuming, for saying that Marxist class stratification and class warfare had no reality in a Chinese context. Even the tiny, meaningless, pro-Chinese Marxist-Leninist parties still send their delegations to Peking.

But of course, the most obviously unchanged sphere is China's adherence to the world view it inherited from Mao: the unyielding hostility to the Russians and balancing that, the readiness to be patient over the détente with America. That same root of fear and hostility to the Soviet Union still guides—and very considerably warps—

Society's attitude to human life

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, The delaying tactics adopted by pro-abortion members of the Standing Committee examining the Abortion (Amendment) Bill sponsored by Mr William Benyon and the clearly non-cooperative attitude of the Government were described and assessed, I presume, accurately by Ronald Butt (June 30). He has, however, omitted all that needs to be said about the Benyon Bill. It is indeed sad to witness such determination to thwart the repeatedly expressed will of the House and to ignore the concern among so many ordinary people about the effects of the 1967 legislation.

Mr Butt totally destroys an already sickly case in his penultimate paragraph. If he, or any of the Bill's supporters really know of any case where a foetus which would have survived independently had been destroyed, will they please state names and dates. If their case were a good one, would they really need to resort to such emotion and scandal?

I also point out that both Sir Bernard Braine and Mr William Benyon are members of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, which is committed to abolishing legal abortion altogether.

"Not anti-abortion," hoots

Yours faithfully,

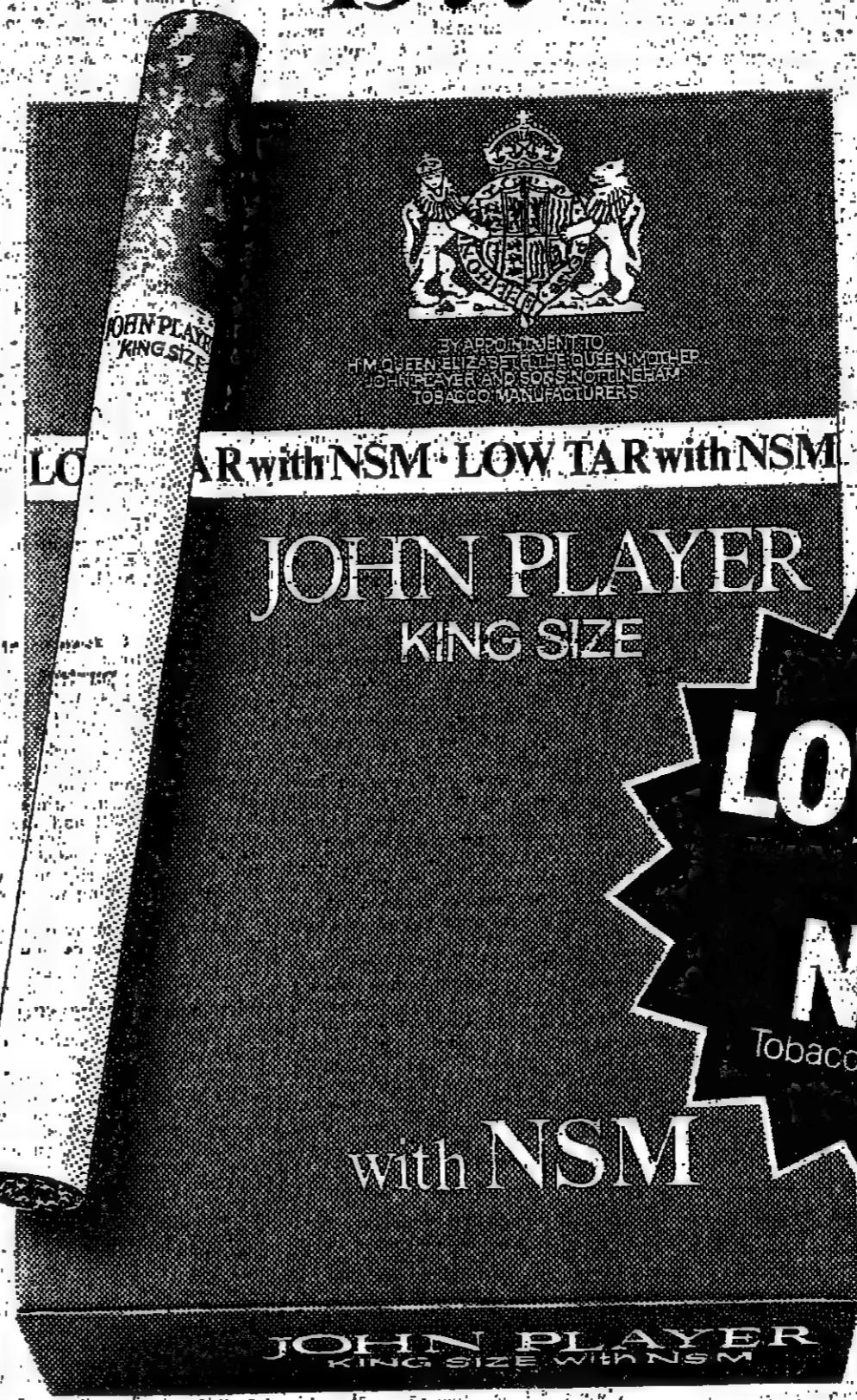
CAROLINE WOODROFFE, Chairman, Brook Advisory Centre, 233 Tottenham Court Road, W1.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 3: Mr Cyril Woods had the honour of being received by Queen at Windsor Castle today when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (Fifth Class).

Mr Isaac Little, Miss Mary Pearce and Mr John Reynolds had the honour of being received by The Queen with Her Royal Coat of Arms at the Royal Victoria Medal (Silver).

The Prince of Wales, Chairman, attended a Gala Evening at the Royal Yacht Squadron, which also decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

The Prince of Wales, Chairman, attended a Gala Evening at the Royal Yacht Squadron, which also decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness attended the British leg of the European Endurance Championship for Formula 1 Powerboats at Festival Pier.

Mrs Alastair Aird was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited the International Festival of Colour and Music at Westminster Cathedral held in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund and was later present at the Silver Jubilee Concert of the Australian Musical Association at Drury Lane Theatre.

Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

ROYAL HOUSE
July 2: The Duke of Kent, President of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, was present this afternoon at the Championships at Wimbledon and presented challenge trophies to the winners.

Captain James Greenfield and Mrs Alan Henderson were in attendance.

THATCHET HOUSE LODGE
July 3: Princess Alexandra, Duchess of Gloucester, today visited the International Festival of Colour and Music at Westminster Cathedral held in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund and was later present at the Silver Jubilee Concert of the Australian Musical Association at Drury Lane Theatre.

Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

Olave, Lady Baden-Powell
A book of remembrance has been opened on the death of Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, at the Girl Guides' Commonwealth Headquarters, Buckingham Palace Road, SW1. Visitors may call between 10 am and 4 pm on weekdays and between 10 am and noon on Saturdays.

Birthdays today

Dame Kingsley Anderson, 74; Lord Barber, 57; Mr Alec and Mr Eric Beider, 59; Admiral Sir Harold Burrough, 85; Mr Brian W. Downs, 84; Sir Ronald Garve, 74; Lord Hankey, 72; Sir Leslie Fox, 74; Major-General G. W. Richardson, 73; Major-General Sir Guy Salter-Jones, 61.

Memorial services

Sir William Hart

A memorial service for Sir William Hart took place in the chapel of Wadham College, Oxford, on Saturday. The Chaplain, the Rev Timothy Gorringe, officiated. The lesson was read by Mr George Hart (son) and the Bishop of Dorchester gave an address. Wadham College was represented by the Warden and Fellows and others present included:

Lady Hart (widow), Mr Thomas Hart, 22; Mr and Mrs Christopher Alexander, Mr and Mrs Evan Ford, Mr and Mrs Christopher Studd, Mr and Mrs Christopher Studd, Mr and Mrs John Davies, Miss W. Jones.

Mr John Masterman

A memorial service for Sir John Masterman took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday. The Dean of Christ Church,

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon John Vaughan and Miss E. M. Waterer

The engagement is announced between John Edward, younger son of the Earl and Countess of Leinster, of 22 York House, Grosvenor Square, London, W1, and Catherine Evelyn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Waterer, of Hynd Sarnesford, Norton Canon, Herefordshire.

Captain H. K. E. Trevaskis and Miss E. M. Bush

The engagement is announced between Captain Jeremy Trevaskis, Scots Guards, elder son of Sir Michael Trevaskis, of 3 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W1, and Lady Trevaskis, of The Old Vicarage, Chaddiworth, Berkshire, and the late Peter Bush, Mrs Bush, Low Farm House, Sutton, Surrey.

Mr F. J. K. Ledwith and Miss S. C. Hollis

The engagement is announced between Rev Canon John Kingsey, of St Bernard's Ledingham, 19 Queen's Gate Terrace, SW7, and Mrs Anne Ledwith, of 38 Carlton Street, W8, and Susan Cartwright, of The Old Vicarage, Chaddiworth, Berkshire, and the late Peter Bush, Mrs Bush, Low Farm House, Sutton, Surrey.

Mr M. J. C. G. Carlisle and Miss J. M. Peel

The engagement is announced between Malcolm, younger son of Mr George Carlisle and Mrs Dorothy Waycott, of Norwood, London, SE21, and Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Hollis, of Laverstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr R. J. C. Damerell and Miss S. C. Hollis

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Mr R. J. C. Damerell and Miss S. C. Hollis

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Henry Hyde, of Middlebury, Windermere, Cumbria, and Brigette, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K. C. Caban, of Whitecroft, Stourport, Shropshire.

Mr V. A. J. Muller and Miss C. J. Atherton

The engagement is announced between Rev Canon John Kingsey, of St Bernard's Ledingham, 19 Queen's Gate Terrace, SW7, and Jill, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. V. Atherton, of Bickley, Kent.

Mr M. Ross and Miss C. Moss

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Dr and Mrs Lois Rose, of 831 Finchley Road, London, NW3, and Carolyn, older daughter of Mrs Margaretta Moss of Flat 1, 9 Deasy Street, Park Lane, London, W1, and the late Mr Derrick Ross.

Mr R. Worrel and Miss J. Simmons

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs J. L. Worrel, of Galveston, Texas, United States, and Jacqueline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs S. G. Simons, of Bedfordshire, Kent. The couple are both resident in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Christening

The daughter of Mr and Mrs D. S. Woolf was christened Verity at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, SW1, on Sunday, July 3, by the Rev E. G. H. Saunders. The godparents are Mr C. T. Crammer, Miss E. Harrison and Mrs M. H. Harris.

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Lady Hart (widow), Mr Thomas Hart, 22; Mr and Mrs Christopher Alexander, Mr and Mrs Evan Ford, Mr and Mrs Christopher Studd, Mr and Mrs John Davies, Miss W. Jones.

Mr John Masterman

A memorial service for Sir John Masterman took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday. The Dean of Christ Church,

Another look at divorce and Holy Communion

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent
An inquiry into present custom in the Church of England on the admission of divorced persons to Holy Communion is to be undertaken for the House of Bishops by the commission that has already been set up to consider more general questions of marriage and the church. The commission will be asked to recommend a uniform practice through the church, since some of the views it has been asked by the bishops to consider is whether sacramental discipline is an appropriate approach.

By coincidence, almost identical questions are being considered by a working party set up by the English and Welsh bishops. The commission's report, which the bishops have to receive before the end of the year, will be submitted to the church, perhaps because of its objectively stiffer code of sexual behaviour, great use is now made of what is termed the "pastoral solution". Strictly speaking, a couple whose marriage is not recognized by the church have to receive the sacrament outside the church, which would knock on the parsonage door and reveal themselves; and in the other that they would seek advice in the confessional. In practice, however, cases must slip through this net; and there is increasing questioning in both churches whether such nets ought to be there at all.

The House of Bishops, at its May meeting, had before it the results of a survey of all the dioceses. According to Convocation regulations, introduced 20 years ago when divorce was a far less pressing matter for

the church, divorced communicants who remarry are expected to abstain from Holy Communion, at least for a while immediately after their marriage, and then to approach their parish priest with a request to be readmitted. He is required to consult his bishop, who decides the matter and informs the couple concerned of his decision. That, at least, is the theory. That, at

least, is the Roman Catholic Church, perhaps because of its objectively stiffer code of sexual behaviour, great use is now made of what is termed the "pastoral solution". Strictly speaking, a couple whose marriage is not recognized by the church have to receive the sacrament outside the church, which would knock on the parsonage door and reveal themselves; and in the other that they would seek advice in the confessional. In practice, however, cases must slip through this net; and there is increasing questioning in both churches whether such nets ought to be there at all.

In practice the line often taken by parish clergy—which the knowledge and approval of the bishop, in many cases—is to judge each case on its merits. Where a union is stable and obviously a "working marriage" in the commonly accepted sense, the couple would be advised, and encouraged to receive Holy Communion with a good conscience.

Marriages

Mr W. P. S. Damerell and Lady Mary Carnegie

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Bartholomew's, Rogate, Hampshire, between Mr William Patrick Stirling Damerell, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. V. Damerell, of Stodham Park, Liss, Hampshire, and Lady Mary Carnegie, younger daughter of the Earl and Countess of Northesk, of Springfield, Ballynahinch, County Down, Northern Ireland, and the Rev Canon H. E. Twiston Davies, of Liverpool.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a French-style gown of white silk and a long veil in place of a diamond and pearl tiara. She carried a bouquet of white roses, tulips and yellow rosebuds.

Rupert Damerell and Antonia Martineau attended the Rev Canon H. E. Twiston Davies officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a French-style gown of white silk and a long veil in place of a diamond and pearl tiara. She carried a bouquet of white roses, tulips and yellow rosebuds.

A reception was held at Fair Oak, Rogate, Petersfield, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A. J. Prout and Miss J. Coyle

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, East Sussex, between Mr Anthony Harrington Prout, son of Mr and Mrs A. J. G. Prout, of Bedchapel, Cross, and the Rev Canon J. G. Thorley.

The bride, who was given in

marriage by her uncle, Major-General E. Corlett, wore a gown of white cotton and broderie anglaise and she carried a shorter bouquet of white roses.

The Rev Canon Prout attended her. Mr John Hilton Poynton was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A. B. Prowse and Miss J. Coyle

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, East Sussex, between Mr Anthony Harrington Prowse, son of Mr and Mrs A. B. Prowse, of Bedchapel, Cross, and the Rev Canon J. G. Thorley.

The bride, who was given in

marriage by her brother, Major-General E. Corlett, wore a gown of cream, Oriental flowered silk and a family veil of Brussels lace held in place by a headress of cream roses and pearls. She carried a bouquet of cream silk and pearls.

The Rev Canon P. J. St Michael's, of St. Michael's, attended the Rev Canon J. G. Thorley.

The bride, who was given in

marriage by her father, was attended by Francis Barling, Lucy Macmillan Scott and Miss Rebecca Nicolson. Mr Henry Wyndham was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. J. C. Damerell and Miss S. C. Hollis

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Thinking in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church, perhaps because of its objectively stiffer code of sexual behaviour, great use is now made of what is termed the "pastoral solution". Strictly speaking, a couple whose marriage is not recognized by the church have to receive the sacrament outside the church, which would knock on the parsonage door and reveal themselves; and in the other that they would seek advice in the confessional. In practice, however, cases must slip through this net; and there is increasing questioning in both churches whether such nets ought to be there at all.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, June 27. Dealings end, July 8. Contango Day, July 11. Settlement Day, July 19

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Stock or standing stock	Price Change last week	Int. Gross Div. last week	Int. Yield last week	Capitalization Company	Price Change last week	Int. Gross Div. last week	Int. Yield last week	Capitalization Company	Price Change last week	Int. Gross Div. last week	Int. Yield last week	Capitalization Company	Price Change last week	Int. Gross Div. last week	Int. Yield last week	Capitalization Company	Price Change last week	Int. Gross Div. last week	Int. Yield last week	
BRITISH FUNDS																				
A-B																				
ABF Funds	-10.00	1.00	1.0%	Crown House	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Lorraine Int'l	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Open Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Pres Stock	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
ABF Trust	-3.50	1.00	2.9%	ABF Fund	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Leisure Guard	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Reginald Head	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Rand Minn Prod	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
ABF Trust	-3.50	1.00	2.9%	ABF Funds	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Centex Co	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Saint Catherines	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Rancho Blue	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
ABF Trust	-4.50	1.00	2.9%	ABF Trust	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Dartmouth Inv	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Seaboard Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Rancho Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
ABF Trust	-4.50	1.00	2.9%	ABF Trust	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Barclays New	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Shelburne Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Rancho Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
ABF Trust	-4.50	1.00	2.9%	ABF Trust	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Barclays New	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Lawrence N.	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Rancho Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
ABF Trust	-4.50	1.00	2.9%	ABF Trust	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Bath Int'l	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Leigh Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	Rancho Corp	-1.5	0.5	1.0%	
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Need for a
fresh approach
to prices
policy, page 21

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Treasury forecasts to 1978 offer only limited scope for early reflation moves

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Mr Healey will receive the final version of the latest Treasury forecast for Britain's economic future by the end of this week. The forecast, which goes to the end of 1978, will set out the options facing the Chancellor.

Although some of the forecasts are yet available, it is clear that they will need to reinforce the prevailing mood of caution within Whitehall about carrying through too much reflation this month in an effort to buy an agreement from the trade unions to a further round of pay restraint.

The key element limiting the extent to which the Chancellor can afford to give away money even if he wants to is the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR). Under the terms of the Letters of Intent to the International Monetary Fund, this has to be kept at £3,700m this year and £3,600m in 1978-79.

Forecasters have apparently been looking at the impact on this, and other key economic indicators, of a range of possible increases in average earnings during the coming year.

Although higher wage settlements would mean the payment of more income tax, it is clear that the extra cost to the Government of having to pay higher interest rates on the money borrowed would cancel out in large measure, leaving little for the Chancellor to give away.

The situation is further complicated by the extra tax on Townswomen, which was forced into the Finance Bill by Mrs. Audrey Wise and Mr. Jeffrey Donaldson, backbench Labour MPs who voted with the Conservatives to increase personal allowances.

These concessions would cost the Government about £500m a year, and would push over the limit of public borrowing allowed by the IMF if coupled with a cut of 2p in the pound in the standard rate of income tax, as suggested by the Chancellor in his original Budget speech.

Although the new forecast may make it possible for Mr. Healey to be marginally more generous this year, there is a real possibility that either the extra allowances or the cut in standard rate will be opposed by the Government. If the

report stage of the Finance Bill.

This is particularly likely to be the case if the Chancellor decides to take action to limit price increases by nationalized industries or to produce a new jobs package for implementation in July.

Although the prospects for early reflation are slim, it is clear that they will need to reinforce the prevailing mood of caution within Whitehall about carrying through too much reflation this month in an effort to buy an agreement from the trade unions to a further round of pay restraint.

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that there would be scope for significant stimulus from next year onwards. Any measures taken in November would have comparatively little effect on total public borrowing during this year, because any tax cuts would be in operation for considerably less than six months.

Also, the PSBR ceiling has to be viewed in the light of the great uncertainties which surround any such estimate. In the forecast drawn up for the Budget the PSBR was calculated essentially by estimating expenditure and revenue and looking at the difference.

Because both sides of the account are subject to considerable error, inaccuracies in the difference between them can easily top £1,000m even when the forecast model is working well.

Last year, the PSBR was forecast as late as November to be around £11,200m, but turned out at around £8,800m.

Officials in Whitehall believe that the days have gone for good when the PSBR turns out well below forecast, but it may not look that way later in the year. Certainly, some of the evidence on the actual borrowing by the public sector will be difficult to interpret because of specific factors, such as raising money for the British National Oil Corporation and the unpredictable behaviour of local authority borrowing.

Inflation warning: The Government is likely to miss its inflation targets by "substantial margin" unless it gets a far tighter pay policy, it seems likely, Phillips and Drew say.

Mr. Healey aims to get the rise in prices down to 13 per cent by December and single figures by the middle of next year. But the stockbrokers believe inflation will be running at 14 per cent this year and will stay in double figures throughout 1978.

Phillips and Drew say it would be over-optimistic to expect earnings growth to be below 15 per cent in 1978. Mr. Healey's aim is to keep it below 10 per cent.

It points out that, when previous pay policies have been put in place, in 1967, 1970 and 1975, earnings immediately accelerated, and the peak had stayed in double figures throughout 1978.

The Government would also have to satisfy itself that any action does not lead to problems with the International Monetary Fund. The easiest way of doing that would be to pay back the money Britain has borrowed. This might suit the Fund which is short of liquidity needed to help other countries.

Even if the Government chose to stay within the Fund guidelines, however, it seems likely

that on the previous one.

Saudis and Emirates end two-tier pricing

By Roger Vievoeuvre
Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have cleared the way for an end to the two-tier oil pricing system with the announcement of their decision to raise prices by 5 per cent from last Friday.

The decision, reported by the Saudi News Agency from Riyadh, follows last week's statement by nine of the other 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries that they would forge the 5 per cent increase planned for July 1.

The regional reports accompany an assessment by the federation's economic situation committee, which points to resumption in growth in the United Kingdom in the autumn. Indications in the reports are at exports remain generally healthier than domestic trade.

Information on exports is not uniform. In some regions a strong intake of new orders, rises to optimism about a continued growth in export diversification, but in others a slight dip in the growth of export demand is reported.

Concern is expressed that declining export prices competitiveness and profitability could be affecting performance before the end of the year.

The June monthly trends inquiry conducted by the CBI indicates that a peak in the rate of inflation has been reached, at least temporarily:

cheaper than other Opec countries. Ending this differential plus the cancellation of the planned 5 per cent increase by the other 11 members will bring all Opec prices in line at 10 per cent above last December's levels. It will be confirmed when Opec ministers meet in Stockholm next month.

While cancelling the official 5 per cent rise, Libya and neighbouring Algeria are expected to raise their prices by 28 cents a barrel during the third quarter of the year to bring them into line with similar-quality oil from Nigeria.

During the first three months of this year, British demand for high-quality African oils enabled the three producers from this area to reinforce the quality premiums that are calculated outside the general Opec pricing structure.

North Sea optimism: Production of North Sea oil should exceed national consumption by 1979, the Henley Centre for Forecasting states, less than a week after offshore output topped 1.5 million barrels a day.

The forecast, slightly more optimistic than the Government's estimate of self-sufficiency by 1980, was made after taking account of the rapid rise in the price of oil.

Mr James Morrell, director of the centre, writing in the magazine *Accountancy*, says the value of production will rise from nearly £3,000m this year to as much as £10,000m in 1981.

Big demand for LSMO issue likely on Thursday

By Ronald Pullen

London & Scottish Marine Oil comes to the market this week at an opportune time when the new issue business appears to have found a fresh lease of life after the debacle of last year's attempts to float off new companies.

After the warm reception of the British Petroleum share sale, along with the success of Sotheby's issue and the City Hotels Group placing the prospectus of an oil-rich state in Sri Lanka's North Sea rich fields, there is now a healthy demand for the LSMO shares when subscription lists open on Thursday, and a good premium on the offer price when dealers net under way.

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After the warm reception of the British

Business appointments

Sun Life

Assurance

names

new director

Mr R. C. Fryer has been appointed to the board of Sun Life Assurance.

Mr G. N. Hobbs has been made chairman of Charterhouse Group.

Mr J. C. Vaughan has retired.

Mr R. T. Hardwick, Mr R. B. Hope and Mr L. W. Skelton have become directors of Associated Minerals Consolidated and Mr Hardwick becomes managing director. He succeeds Mr J. Pinter, who continues as a director. Mr S. L. Segal retires from the board.

Mr J. N. W. Dudley has been appointed to the board of Cater Ryder.

Mr A. H. Atkinson is the new chief executive of Babcock Leslie.

Mr Jon Foulds, a director of Finance for Industry, becomes group general manager, following the retirement of Mr Paul Hindley, who remains on the board.

Mr J. Y. Cleator has been appointed chairman of Fender International.

Mr T. O. Hutchison joins the board of Oce-van der Grinten Finance.

Mr Malcolm Argent has been made director of the Post Office's eastern telecommunications region. He succeeds Dr Ema Knight, who has retired.

Mr Eric Lombard Knight has joined Young Advertising as chairman.

Mr Bryan Jefferson, of Jefferson, Sheard and Partners, becomes president of the Concrete Society.

Mr A. Scott-Jones has been made a director of R. P. Martin Sterling.

Mr Alan Norman becomes deputy chairman of Montfort (Killing Mills).

Mr Edmund Wood has been appointed to the board of Wilson Bros as financial director.

Mr Peter Wright has been named joint managing director of Target Windows.

Mr C. F. Smale becomes a member of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Five new international directors have been appointed to the main group board of CMG Computer Manufacturers Group. They are Barbara Ward, Mr Nick Schofield, Mr John Griffiths, Mr David Groom and Mr Cor Stuertheim.

Mr Peter Deykin, county surveyor of Norfolk, has been elected president of the Institution of Highway Engineers.

Mr John Bailey becomes director of the Office of Fair Trading's legal division in succession to Mr Michael Ware.

Three new directors have been named by Afric Plastics—Mr Frank Harding, Mr Len Smith, and Mr Robert Wilson.

Mr Gordon Peters has been made a director of Chadwick Weir.

Mr David Tinkler has become a director of Kukasair.

Mr C. H. Spencer has retired as a joint managing director of Spencer Gears (Holdings) and also as chairman of Spencer Gears. He remains on the board of Spencer Gears (Holdings), as a non-executive director. Mr J. W. L. Schofield continues as a joint managing director of Spencer Gears. Mr C. H. Poukou becomes director of Spencer Gears. Mr J. W. L. Schofield continues as a joint managing director of Spencer Gears (Holdings), has been appointed a joint managing director of the group. Mr J. G. Hurst joins the board of Spencer Gears (Holdings).

Mr B. P. Garnett has been elected a non-executive director of Provincial Laundries.

Mr Maurice Vass has been appointed managing director of Windsor Safari Park.

US car makers set for record autumn output

Detroit, July 3.—American car makers buoyed by robust sales for most of their models, are planning record output in the third quarter, 12 per cent higher than a year ago.

The ambitious production plans reflect Detroit's belief that the present brisk pace of new car sales will continue for the remainder of the 1977 model year this summer, and through the introduction of 1978 models in the autumn.

To achieve their production goals, car makers will attempt to build as many of their most popular models as they can over the next month or two before they close some plants to prepare for assembly of 1978 models.

That strategy continues a pattern set all year in which the big three manufacturers have repeatedly provided Saturday overtime at their plants where better-selling intermediate and big cars are built.

In addition, the industry is planning some heavy production of 1978 models later in the quarter. It has scheduled a quick close-down of tooling—in some cases only lasting over a weekend—at plants where new models are little changed from present ones. Even at a few plants where models are completely changed, car makers are hoping to minimize the longer close-downs that will be required so they can build dealer inventories by the time new

models are introduced in September.

Imports warning: A potentially controversial study commissioned by foreign car importers in the United States concludes that a sharp consumer swing from foreign-to-American-built care would result in a net loss of American jobs and the closing of hundreds of businesses.

The findings, by Harbridge House, a Boston consultancy, contradict generally-held beliefs that large sales gains by imports in recent years have come at the expense of American jobs.

The study does not dispute claims by the United Auto Workers that members employed by American car makers have lost jobs through greater sales of imports—a position affirmed by the Labour Department.

But the study notes that jobs lost in manufacturing are more than compensated for by increased employment by importers.

Imports are up more than 50 per cent from last year, while domestic sales have increased only 6 per cent. As a result, imports now account for nearly one in every five new cars sold in America.

Researchers, using 1975 data obtained from questionnaires sent to a sample of import dealers, concluded that more than 120,000 people are directly employed by importers, distributors and dealers. That excludes employment concerned

with "captive" imports—cars built overseas but distributed in the United States by American car makers.

Air-bags ordered: Mr Brock Adams, American Transportation Secretary, has ordered air-bags, or other "passive restraint" safety devices in new cars to be introduced during the 1982-1984 model years.

Mr Adams said that he decided to require the controversial and long-delayed air bag on all cars sold in the United States because "too many people have needlessly been injured or killed in crashes where passive restraints could have saved them. I cannot in good conscience be a party to further unnecessary delay".

Although Mr Adams' decision is victory for those who have sought the air-bag requirement, it is not the final word. His order is subject to approval by Congress, and car makers will probably go to court to block it.

Mr Adams ruled that car makers must equip full-size cars with passive restraints starting with 1982 models, intermediate and "compact" models in 1983, and small cars beginning with the 1984 model year.

Passive restraints are devices designed to protect occupants in collisions without the need for occupants to take any active step, such as buckling belts.

The air-bag, which automatically inflates in a crash, or passive belts, which are attached to the front door and automatically fold across front-

seats, occupants when the door closes, have been tested and meet the Government's requirements, Mr Adams said.

About 11,000 cars are already equipped with air-bags and about 60,000 Volkswagen Rabbits are equipped with passive belts.

Car makers have estimated that the air-bag would cost between \$200 (about £115) and \$300 a car. But the latest estimate by Mr Adams' department is that the mass-production cost would be about \$12, while passive belts would cost about \$25. The passive belt has more limited uses than the air bag, because it is suitable merely for cars that accommodate only the driver and one passenger.

Transportation Department sources said a gradual introduction was being adopted to avoid a more costly straight switch-over. Other considerations are a desire to work out any technical problems that might be uncovered during the phase-in and to provide time to develop an air-bag system for smaller cars, instead of passive belts.

Mr Adams said the introduction of air-bags will carefully synchronize the "orderly production of the totally new American car of the 1980s—one that will be safer, cleaner and more economical".

He recently ruled that new car fleets must meet tight fuel economy targets between 1981 and 1984. Meantime, Congress is moving to limit car pollution.

—AP-Dow Jones

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cause for concern over the new Atlantic air services pact

From Sir Peter Masefield
Sir, While it would be ungenerous not to pay tribute to our negotiators in their valiant bidding of an elusive air transport snark, following Britain's unilateral determination of the Bermuda Agreement on Anglo-American air services, in the event it is clear that (like the earlier Lewis Carroll adventure) "the bowspirit got mixed up with the rudder sometimes when a vessel is, so to speak."

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Because of the importance of Bermuda Mark 2 to every nation's air services—and most of all to our own—there ought to be no misunderstanding or glossing over of the factual position.

The more important gains in Bermuda Mark 2 include the opening up of new routes across the North Atlantic; within five years some relatively small rationalization of "fifth freedom" rights into Europe; a move towards agreeing a relationship between

United States carrier Dallas/Fort Worth near by, extraordinarily, an American carrier is to be granted a perpetual monopoly for scheduled flights from an unnamed national point in the United States to London. And this in the face of the fair and equal opportunities principle.

3 The proposed Lake Skies fares are, apparently, matched by United States airlines out of Heathrow on a stand-by, fill-in basis. More than competitive sit which is bound to pre-Skytrain's economics. Denial of this response by United Kingdom will, it is automatically result in the withdrawal of Skytrain's U.S. permit.

4 Notable by its absence is a leasing reference charter services—one of causes for airline losses of North Atlantic.

5 All in all, after the car mistake of revoking, instead amending, Bermuda 1, it is clear that great pressure on British delegation during final all-night session on 20-21 in Lewis Carroll's "In the mid of the last

Soften and suddenly to v

For the Snark was a Bo
Yours faithfully,
PETER G. MASEFIELD,
"Roshill",
Doods Way,
Reigate, Surrey,
RH2 0JT.

North Wolds will fight for development status

Industry in the regions

Seldom can a government announcement have been greeted with more righteous indignation than that of April 14 this year when the people of the North Wolds in the Yorkshire and Humberside region realized they had been excluded from the development area status awarded to parts of north and south Humberside.

To the south of the Wolds, Hessle, Hull and Beverley languish in their new-found, incentive-laden grandeur, while to the north is an existing development area taking in a coastal belt about 15 miles wide from south of Scarborough to north of Whitby.

The corridor of the Wolds including Filey, Bridlington and Driffield, where industry is either thinly distributed or non-existent and unemployment is high, is the neglected sibling in an unsatisfactory economic sandwich.

It is no coincidence that a vast tract of north Yorkshire away to the north and west, taking in Malton, Pickering, Thirsk, Northallerton, and Richmond areas, was at the same time downgraded from development area to intermediate area status, which the Wolds itself at present enjoys.

The charge against the Government is neglect by omission and local authorities led by the North Wolds District Council based in Bridlington are determined to put up a fight for inclusion in the development areas and enjoy the benefits of the Act.

To rub salt into the wound, Mr Gibson adds that the English Tourist Board is to make available £3m over the next three to four years for what are deemed "fragile" areas Scarborough, Bridlington's chief competitor, has 721 unemployed, while Scarborough has 1,332 unemployed.

North Wolds will equally point out that you cannot have both ways and that Whitby, which is a development area, has 10.6 per cent unemployment and only 563 unemployed, considerably fewer than Bridlington.

The other major problem is unemployment and the need to attract to the area.

In the past 10 years there has been an 80 per cent increase in male unemployment in the Bridlington travel-to-work area.

A matter of major concern is that for many years in the past those people unemployed in winter at Bridlington could safely count on finding employment in summer when the holiday season started.

Mr Gibson explained: Trends show that unemployment is now a problem all year round, not only for this council, but for the Humberside County Council as well. We have the support of the Yorkshire and Humberside Tourist Board, the interest of the Economic Planning Council, and the support of the Yorkshire committee of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas.

The principal yardstick for granting assisted status has always been the unemployment percentage. In mid-June, the Bridlington figure was 7 per

cent, and Scarborough 5.5 per cent. It will be argued, no doubt, that numbers count and not percentages, and Bridlington with the higher percentage has 721 unemployed, while Scarborough has 1,332 unemployed.

North Wolds will equally point out that you cannot have both ways and that Whitby, which is a development area, has 10.6 per cent unemployment and only 563 unemployed, considerably fewer than Bridlington.

For that matter, the northern region which enjoys development area status has only 115,518 unemployed, for its 8.6 per cent figure, while Yorkshire and Humberside region has 117,682 unemployed for 5.7 per cent. Yorkshire and Humberside is, for the greater part, an intermediate area.

We would strongly urge all chartered accountants to vote for the resolution against current cost accounting and not to allow the views of the membership to be clouded by apathy.

We would suggest that right approach is to consider giving further information historic cost accounts and possibly to adjust shareholder equity by a transfer from profit and loss account to a account of the change in value of money.

5 It is the responsibility of the accounting profession to seek the truth, not to jump on every trendy band wagon which passes.

6 The institute should be participating by pointing out that historic cost accounts suitably annotated can give all the information necessary in a much more acceptable and sensible form than CCA.

7 The public standing of the institute and its members will be seriously damaged if CCA is introduced and does not win acceptance.

Professional engineers and the TUC

From Mr W. B. Deller
Sir, Eric Wiggin makes unjustified and questionable assertions when he says that "managerial and professional workers" are affiliated to the TUC when they can.

I believe that the inadequate

levels of status, rewards and man-unionization in the engineering profession can be attributed to a collection of policies and attitudes which directly correlate with the rise in power of the TUC.

I believe, and so do many other professional engineers, that there is no way in which the elevation in status of professional engineering in the wealth-creating manufacturing

sector—which is a prerequisite for the effective deployment of British technological expertise and economic recovery—can be reconciled with the policies and attitudes which are so closely associated with the TUC.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. DELLER,
2, Burrough Crescent,
Bourne End,
Bucks.

June 29.

Powell Duffryn: record profits in an exciting year

Years ended 31 March	1977 £'000	1976 £'000	% Increase 1977 over 1976
Turnover	303,376	248,409	22.1
Trading Profit	14,833	10,224	45.1
Profit before Taxation	13,689	9,548	43.4
Net Earnings of the Year before Extraordinary Items attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	6,793	4,794	41.7
—per share in pence	26.6p	18.8p	
Ordinary Dividends	1,991	1,810	10.0
—per share in pence	7.803p	7.094p	
Dividend cover (full distribution basis)	3.4	2.6	30.8
Net Assets Employed	85,482	76,030	12.4
Return on Average Net Assets Employed	17.8%	13.7%	29.9

Prospects for the current year

"With a projected sizeable increase in turnover, together with the Board's plan for a considerable uplift in our capital investment programme, there is no shortage of optimism in the Group."

Sir Alex Ogilvie, Powell Duffryn Chairman

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Conflicting pressures on the market

Oil and auctioneers have almost totally dominated the stock market for the past few weeks. But there is little sign that the success of recent issues is going to draw out further lashings of new issue fodder for the stags to get their teeth into.

The general feeling, in fact, seems to be that markets may well do little more than sink back into a deep summer slumber for the next few weeks. That remains to be seen. The hope in early June, of course, was that once BP was out of the way funds would be released to generate a modest run-up to a mini-Budget in July.

But the attempt at a rally at the time of the BP marketing quickly fizzled out and, although the market still seems firm enough underneath, hopes of a mini-Budget before the autumn have been rapidly receding.

A mini-Budget, whenever it comes, is in any case of relatively little importance. The big question is the degree to which the benefits of North Sea oil can be turned to the longer term advantage of the economy as a whole, justifying the next big leap in the FT index to a new base above the 500 level.

Ideally, some clearer idea is needed of the longer term strategy for using the oil bonus. But with the Government now committed to electioneering, it is far from certain that the market will be getting that kind of message, at least directly.

More probably, the market is going to have to play it by ear. Putting aside the continuing doubts about trends in the international economy and the ability of the Government to survive the winter, there are two factors that investors are going to be watching especially carefully over the coming months.

One is obviously the kind of wage settlements that emerge as we move out of Phase Two. This will be watched particularly closely by those who doubt that money supply controls are, in fact, an adequate safeguard against a resurgence in inflation. The other is the way in which the Treasury and the Bank of England attempt to control the exchange rate, the money supply and interest rates.

Indeed, perhaps the most fascinating development of all is going to be that of the performance of sterling. Will the pound, in fact, adjust downwards to allow for Britain's relatively high rate of inflation? Or will the weight of the balance of payments surplus in the final quarter be exercising extreme upward pressure on the parity?

If it is the latter, and the Government still believes that the pressure must be resisted or largely resisted, to keep exports competitive, then the implication should be sharply lower interest rates—and higher security values—but tremendous potential uncertainty about control of the money supply.

Accountants

The shadow of Government

It was a bemused Institute of Chartered Accountants which met in Cambridge for its annual conference last week. The inflation accounting strategy is in shreds as a result of the heavy poll which has already been received ahead of the special meeting on Wednesday against its compulsory implementation. Consequently, the profession is still trying to work out exactly what hit it and why.

What it is worried about is the next blow to be delivered by the Government. The amount of attention which has been focused on accountants initially as a result of a couple of spectacular failures and inadequate audits has increased sharply with the inflation accounting debate.

The profession may know where it is going, but it certainly has not looked that way to outsiders and the fear is that unless it sorts itself out quickly the government will do the job for it, ending the accountants' highly-valued independence once and for all.

It may be that the chairman of the Profession's Auditing Practices Committee, Mr Richard Wilkes, is on the right lines when he says that one of the reasons why accountants are under attack is that the role of the auditor is not adequately understood.

But it is clear to many accountants that whether it is understood or not, auditors are not thought to be doing the job they should and there is no surer way of increasing the possibility of outside regulation

than by being thought to be failing to check adequately the accounts produced by public companies.

It is no responsibility of auditors at present to comment on the management skills of a company. Their function is simply to assess whether the accounts produced by directors and which remain the responsibility of directors are a true and fair view of the period reported on and comply with Companies Acts.

The current debate questions both whether this is enough and whether it is being done properly. In a way the profession has made a rod for its own back by



Mr Douglas Morpeth, chairman of the Inflation Accounting Steering Group.

trying to perform its function better and producing standards for the treatment of various items in accounts.

The more complex problem is whether auditors should also comment on the performance of a company. For many shareholders it matters little that an auditor believes the accounts to be true and fair for they lack the expertise increasingly needed to interpret what the accounts tell them anyway.

LSMO

Questions of valuation

For all the mouth-watering projections in the London & Scottish Marine Oil prospectus, the overriding factor that investors must always bear in mind is that North Sea investment is a highly speculative pasture.

Admittedly, the sponsors have liberally sprinkled the document with all the necessary warnings about future oil price production delays and so on. Even so, prospective investors need also to look at the attitude of the bankers who recently put together a £30m loan for LSMO's share of the Ninian development since these can folk have demanded a full 2½ per cent margin over LIBOR.

And of course on any normal criterion for equity investment, LSMO would get short shrift with losses of up to £16m by the end of 1978, a deficit of shareholders funds developing next year as well, no reliable profit forecast and not even the promise of a dividend until 1980.

Set against that, however, is the potentially rich harvest to be reaped from the North Sea for the lucky few. And with its 9 per cent Ninian stake there is no doubt that LSMO falls well within that category.

None of this will worry the stags this week who will see the opportunity of a straight stake in the North Sea as being too good a chance to miss. Yet for the longer term investor, the crucial question is more complicated, and that is what precise value can be put on the LSMO shares.

One way would be to base the valuation entirely on Ninian, even though the profit illustrations make that difficult enough without such maverick factors as the slippage already on the project or Governmental flats such as have upset Shell and Esso's development of the Brent field last week.

Even so, taking a line through the oil production stock, LSMO shares look to be worth between 140 and 150p while if interest on its cash balances and the stake in block 23/27 is taken into account an asset value of more than double that figure is not too wild a flight of fancy.

Where LSMO scores over other North Sea speculative stocks is in the fact that it has actually found oil and has already shown its financial skill in arranging a huge amount of borrowings on nothing more than promise.

Small investors may come out in force initially but LSMO still looks too specialized to make it other than an institutional vehicle longer term. Meanwhile, success of the launch is likely to spill over into Cawoods, National Carbureting and James Finlay given their stakes in the company.

Business Diary in Europe: Historic architecture



Bill Norris, VOTE secretary, Peter Haxby, RTTB director of training, Julian Bieneck, "Skill Olympics" competitor, and Fred Hill, VOTE chairman: Utrecht, here we come.

While Britain's first presidency of the EEC was ending on a rather uninspiring note last week, one British citizen at least scored a notable personal victory at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Richard Patrick, a Briton with an Architectural Association degree, had been refused permission by the French authorities to exercise his profession in France. The French argued that although freedom of establishment was provided for in the Treaty of Rome it was dependent on national implementing legislation which did not yet exist in the case of architects.

But it is clear to many accountants that whether it is understood or not, auditors are not thought to be doing the job they should and there is no surer way of increasing the possibility of outside regulation

than this year's national show-ing to worry about.

Bill is chairman and Norris secretary of the body that funds the British team. The Society for the Promotion of Vocational Training and Education (VOTE).

It is costing about £700 a head to send the 14 male apprentices to Utrecht. Next year's competition, however, is to be in Pusan, South Korea, and the cost may be more than double.

In 1978, therefore, will VOTE be able to send out a team even as large as this year? "Somehow we always seem to get by," is all Hill could say when we saw the team off at the weekend.

Help, however, may be on the way. After a vote of mine last March about VOTE, Norris says, the council was approached by SHII and by Chester Riddell, the Birmingham engineering measurement firm, both of whom are now considering whether to help.

VOTE receives no government financial aid. The construction industry training board has underwritten seven apprentices from the building trade who are taking part this year.

The road transport industry training board is also sponsoring Julian Bieneck, of Cambridge, who is to compete in this year's new category, automobile engineering. The rest of the cost has to come from donations.

The results of the competition, which is being held at the Royal Dutch Industries Fair, will be announced next week.

As the British team gets down to work on the first day of the 1977 Industrial Apprentices Competition—the "Skill Olympics"—in Utrecht today, Fred Hill and Bill Norris have more

than this year's national show-ing to worry about.

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Hugh Stephenson

Paying due attention to prices

It is still extraordinary, looking back on it, that it should have been a Conservative Government that first introduced a price code, the most detailed system of interference in the workings of the free market sector in peacetime. A free pricing policy is, or at least in theory ought to be, the heart and soul of that sector. Yet the original Heath price policy was based on the assumption that prices should be handled as if the whole of the private sector was a public utility, subjected to the regulations and constraints normally associated with them.

The gap between political and economic reality in pricing has after four years become so enormous, almost everyone's pace. Mrs Sally Oppenheim would agree that it has hit its bolt. The problem is what should be put in its place.

For all the huffing and puffing between the Government, the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry,

the fact is that there has been little discussion of the principles on which a prices policy should be operated in the longer term. This is not surprising, for the issues involved are intellectually far more difficult even than they are politically. And already the politicians have had difficulty enough with the political aspects.

More important, however, is the fact that there has to be some long-term involvement by government agencies in the field of pricing and monopolies in order to prevent abuse, encourage efficiency and protect the interests of consumers. In an ideal world competition between producers would create such a balance.

But an ideal world does not exist. Further, the growing involvement of government in commerce and industry, symbolized by the Whitbread concept of "sponsorship", means increasingly that the government of the day is in practice taking the side of the producer rather than that of the consumer.

The locus classicus of this was the

issue of the recent merger between Tate and Lyle and Mandé and Garton where the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Industry for an effective reorganization of the cane sugar refining industry took place.

More recently, there might be created in the production of glucose and starch in the United Kingdom.

The Monopolies Commission has not proved an effective instrument of protection of the public interest in these areas, because its proceedings are slow, because the statutory concept of monopoly often bears little relationship to a market often in a less developed state, and because over the years it has developed over a long period.

The new Price Commission will establish itself as a more efficient and effective instrument than others operating in this field, the price.

This will only come about if it is explicit and consistent in justifying the criteria under which it operates. The fear, particularly because of political indications from Mr Roy Hattersley, the minister responsible, is that the whole issue will be taken back into the realm of ad hoc decisions, political expediency and the vagueness of each case on its merits. If such rhetoric is deployed we shall know the issues are not being faced seriously.

Towards a fairer system of local authority finance

The Government's Green Paper on Local Government Finance (Cmnd 6613) proposes a reform of the main subsidy grant—*i.e.* the grant paid by central government to local authorities—which would significantly change the relationship between councils and their rate-payers as well as changing the distribution of the rate burden between different parts of the country.

The present system rate support grant is based on broadly reasonable principles, but these are not made explicit and are implemented in an incomplete and obscure manner. Nor is the confusion surrounding the finance of local government cleared up by the lengthy report of the Layfield Committee, published last year.

The main proposal in the new Green Paper is to introduce a logical and explicit system for the rate-support grant, which will be transparent to the public as well as to local and central bureaucrats. This is a courageous proposal because it will expose the financial decisions of local councils and central government to effective public scrutiny and criticism.

The new proposals for allocation of the grant ought, in our view, to be judged fair as between different local authority areas—with the important exception that ratable value, which is an unfair measure of taxable capacity, would continue to be used as the basis for equalization between areas.

Under the present, confused system the iniquitous effects of basing the grant on ratable value may have been partly mitigated by the obscure internal bargaining process which influences distribution of the grant each year. Under the new more logical system the error is potentially serious because its consequences are likely to be implemented in full.

The essential principle of the new system is that there will be a single, standard rate poundage which ratepayers in each area should expect to pay if local authority services in that area were provided to a uniform national standard. The ratepayer will know what this standard rate is and will therefore be able to judge immediately if his or her rate demand is above or below it.

If the rate demand is higher (or lower) than the standard, the ratepayer will know that local government authorities responsible for the area have decided (as they are entitled to do) to spend more (or less) than would have been necessary to provide the national standard of service. The large differences between authorities mainly for demographic and geographical reasons.

In the case of education one could, for instance, count the number of school children and multiply by the average cost across the country of reaching a child; but that would be untrue to areas (such as London) where teachers' pay has to be higher than elsewhere and to sparsely populated areas where the ratio of teachers to children has to be relatively high.

It is obviously going to be difficult to distinguish, authority by authority, whether differences in education costs per child are due to variations in the quality of service, in efficiency of administration or to unavoidable differences in the cost of achieving a given standard of service. Similar problems will arise for all the other services.

But any fair system of grant distribution to local authorities which is designed to compensate for variations in needs must encounter this problem.

It is, in principle, a difficult system such as we now have leaving the richest authorities in a position to benefit more from the new proposals.

Thus, suppose (as we believe to be broadly the case) that average manual workers in one authority are better off than the poorer ones. This anomaly would be

eliminated under the unitary grant system proposed in the Green Paper.

The main defect of the new proposals is that they continue to rely on ratable values as a fair measure of the taxable capacity of a local authority area. Thus, if average incomes were the same in two areas but the ratable value is twice as high (as one might expect in the green belt), heavily disguised in the grant formulae will be made explicit and public. Not only will electors know whether or not their own authority spends more or less than the standard, but themselves will be able to argue, in public, if they believe that the method of calculation of the standard is unfair.

It is important to note that the estimation of each authority's "standard expenditure" and the basis of the grant it receives on this does not mean that the authority must actually spend any particular amount in total but that it must allocate the total between services in any particular way. Under such a system the authority will still choose its own priorities within the total and if it can spend more or less than "standard" it will choose to impose a higher or lower than average rate burden.

A second important feature of the new proposals is that national standards will apply uniformly to all areas. At present "We have," the Layfield Committee's deficiency as opposed to its "equalization system" so far as compensation for inequality of resources is concerned.

In effect, the central government at present stands in for a relatively poor authority, as a "ratepayer". Owing to such a position it is required to bring that authority's ratable value up to "standard". But nothing is taken away from authorities with ratable values above the standard.

The authors of the Green Paper make this very emphatic statement: without apparently realizing that it is only true on a special and, in our view, implausible assumption about the relationship between authorities in their ratable values relative to their income per head.

Thus, suppose (as we believe to be broadly the case) that average manual workers in one authority are better off than the poorer ones. This anomaly would be

eliminated under the new proposals. The new financial year has started well and the Group is poised for further growth.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 noon on Friday, the 25th of August, 1977, at the Abbot's Well Hotel, Chester. Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available from The Secretary, Lennox Group Ltd., Corporation Street, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA1 1ED.

LENNOX GROUP LIMITED
Lennox

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Trust Houses Forte, GEC, Rothmans and Assoc News

TODAY Interims: Alexander's Discounter; W. W. Ball & Sons; TRUSHTHORPE: Associated News Papers, Bamfords, Bopner Ridge, Sunlife, Speelman Tex, Abrasives and Westminister Property Grp.

TOMORROW

Interims: Bath and Portland H. H. and H. B. Jackson, Lincolns Kite Group, Trust Houses Forte and Winterbottom Tst. Finalists: Arrock Petroleum, J. E. Eastwood, GEC and Rexmunt.

WEDNESDAY Interims: Bakelite Household Stores (Leeds) and Hensher (Furnishers Traders). Finalists: Barker and Dobson, Braham Miller Grp., Carding Grp., Henderson-Kenton, Christofer Morris Grp., Rothmans International, Technology Inds.

Key OCL change at B & C

Today, British & Common shipping is much more time low, the market in ride suggests, but all signs to signal a buy-the-same one cannot ignore another area when shipping. The containerizing of seafarers in the South African trade means

in a survey of the industry, Joseph's group's shareholding in Overseas Container Lines rises from 7.62 per cent to around 20 per cent, available in the Unprobably on September 1.

Cayzer, chairman, remarks: "I think we shall have to examine our estimates, elsewhere is the most appropriate and is expected to account for our share of profits arising from this source."

The point is important because OCL pulled nothing like its full weight on any basis last year. Other incomes rose from £5.66m to £7.38m, enabling 25 per cent among the group to report pre-tax profits of £25.2m against £16.4m. By contrast, operating profits without "other income" soared from £10.7m to £17.8m.

A bigger dividend from South African Marine Corporation helped other income to rise but the gain would have been stronger still but for OCL. The group had received a special dividend from this source the year before. The reduction amounted to £50,000.

It looks as if British & Commonwealth will from now on consolidate its share of OCL profits and the last interim bulletin from that group indicated a big step forward in profitability. But it needs to plough back profits to replace ships. Outside estimates indicate around £30m or more in profits from B & C this year.

It is only recently that the Government came to the belated

Invest 1st and John Waddington.

TRUESDAY

Interims: Birmingham Pallet Grp., Braid Grp., Gough Cooper and Co., Hallam Sleigh and Cheston, Manson Finance Tst., Portfolios and

Tex, Abrasives and Westminister Property Grp.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bonser Engineering, Finalists: Symonds Engineering and Thor Electrical Inds.

Results this week

W. J. Pyke (Higgs), Finals: Daily Mail & General Tst., Graham Wood Steel Grp., Greene King & Sons, Kline Kellars, Rubber Estates, Stroud Riley Drummond and Wellman Engineering Corp.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bonser Engineering, Finalists: Symonds Engineering and Thor Electrical Inds.

No quick rise in South African coal prices but sector cheap

South African Finance Minister, Senator Owen Horwood, currently on a trip round European financial capitals, found time last week to give a pep talk on the state of the economy and to declare that things were not nearly as bad as they seemed.

However, in the process of trying to spread some sunshine over the current and prospective economic situation in South Africa, the minister cast some gloom for the coal-mining companies.

Having lavished praise on the mining industry as an important part of the economy, Senator Horwood showed no enthusiasm whatsoever for allowing a coal-price increase to go through in the short term.

There had been hopes—although fast receding—that the Government would sanction a further round of price increases of about 18 per cent this month. When I asked the minister what his views were, he replied: "I would hope very much that we would not have to increase coal prices just at the moment. We would not lightly increase coal prices."

It is not particularly difficult to see why the Finance Minister would be none too happy to see an increase. He claimed that the inflation rate was now running at between 10 and 11 per cent, a figure which has caused not a little surprise in some quarters as it is that it would have been better but for rail and electricity price increases.

A coal increase would do nothing for the minister's express desire of bringing inflation down to single figures by the end of the year.

The general consensus in the market is that the increase has been delayed for about five or six months, although there are those who believe that it has been far for ever. Either way, it is not much fun for the industry.

It is only recently that the Government came to the belated

conclusion that the industry needed higher prices to offset inflation, while generating sufficient capital for reinvestment and expansion.

Coal stocks have been in the doldrums recently, but investment opinion is now split on whether the sector is now investing or whether it should be left alone until there is a price rise.

On balance, I think the sector is still interesting, given the strategic importance of coal, although it may suffer from short-term political and economic expediency. The two American Coal and Trans Natal Coal, although some of the individual collieries are worthy of respect.

Meanwhile, Unis Corporation has been performing strongly on the back of a thousand-and-one rumours which

Mining

mainly come down to the fact that it has discovered a low-grade, but shallow gold deposit somewhere—the somewhere at one time including Namibia, the Orange Free State (Umtata/St Helena area) or on the Klerksdorp.

Unicorp, not surprisingly, has been quite non-committal, saying only that it has been prospecting for years and that "at this time no decision has been reached to go ahead with the development of a new mine". This has not been enough to stop the share rising by 16p on Wednesday, and another 4p on Friday.

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realization that the industry was phenomenally rich, which, according to the rumours, it is not.

If there is a new mine—and Selection Trust could be getting in on the act, although on Friday it said it had no news. After its very good preliminary figures, ST has now announced a US\$40m 12-year, Eurobond to cut its short-term foreign indebtedness.

Surprisingly, for the kind of long-term industry it is, ST's debt is mostly short-to-medium term—the total debt of about £50m is all repayable by 1986. Short-term debt stands at around £12m, while some £9m of the £37m remainder is repayable by the end of next year.

Given ST's dash for growth and the capital intensive projects it has on hand, the rescheduling of its debts will give it useful room to manoeuvre.

It might have taken them a long while, but the thundering herd in the shape of Merrill Lynch has finally got round to seeing what beauties De Beers has on offer and a report from the brokers was partly responsible for the 23p rise to 266p in the shares over the last two weeks.

Another element, undoubtedly, has been professional buying ahead of the Central Selling Organisation figures expected next week, which will underline the strength of the diamond market.

De Beers has, in fact, been coming in for considerable flack lately from Botswana and its friends, over its negotiations on Trade and Development (Umtata) for early consideration if a Common Fund were established. The commodities are sugar, coffee, cocoa, tea, cotton, jute, hard fibres, copper, copper and tin.

However, both Unicorp and parent General Mining have a lot on their plates and a tight cash position. In addition, Gemini considers that now that it has Unicorp under its wing it is over exposed to gold so that a new gold mine would presumably

be a panacea for all ills.

A Common Fund, available to all international commodity agreements, would afford economic benefits, as coming from one who has devoted himself with unflagging zeal and energy over more than half a century to the pursuit of means of achieving economic stability", they nevertheless reject his proposals.

Yet one of the committee's complaints in the report is that there is a lack of statistical information on the operation of the markets and providing a centralized information centre is a main objective of the world centre proposals.

Perhaps the coolness towards the proposals is not unconnected with the committee's comment that "the scheme would depend on the grant of public funds towards the capital cost".

That is one of the ground that they date from a time when Britain had greater weight in international trade than is the case today and the committee does not consider that they are practicable in the world as it is now.

A fair comment from Mr Grandona would be that perhaps if more attention had been paid to his proposals in the past, Britain might not have lost weight in international trade.

Wallace Jackson

its hand in its pocket for reasons I will go into in a moment, the Parliamentary Group is well aware that the chances are not good and is actively seeking a sponsor, or sponsors, elsewhere.

But in putting up a case for call on public funds the main point is one to which the committee itself draws attention in its report—that according to a recent Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin the commodity markets are now making an estimated contribution to invisible earnings of the order of £200m a year.

It is a fair assumption that if London became the world centre, that contribution would grow. Both the committee and the Government should be mindful of the advice usually given by the professional gambler to the reluctant punter.

"You've got to speculate to accumulate,"

Personal disappointment about the report will be felt by Mr Leo St Clare Grandona whose latest book, *Economic Stability is Attainable*, is required reading.

Although in their acknowledgement the committee make special mention of his testimony, as coming from one who has devoted himself with unflagging zeal and energy over more than half a century to the pursuit of means of achieving economic stability", they nevertheless reject his proposals.

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Commodities Editor

Some disappointments in Lords Select Committee's report**Commodities**

in trends of supply and demand, through fully representative study groups.

The committee thinks that it should be a standard provision in international commodity agreements with buffer stocks that consuming countries should contribute equally with producing countries or else that both sides should agree to an export tax to provide the finance. The committee does not agree with the argument that stability is beneficial only to producing countries.

Briefed to investigate the problem of instability in prices of primary commodities; to scrutinize proposals designed to rectify wide price movements in these commodities and report on the likely effectiveness of these proposals in reducing the substantial price fluctuations of recent years, the House of Lords Select Committee on Commodity Prices has done a painstaking job.

Its report, published last Thursday, shows that it has investigated thoroughly and scrutinized meticulously, although it is perhaps too restrained in dealing with a hitherto field.

One of the main conclusions of the report is that for durable commodities subject to price instability, international commodity agreements, run jointly by producing and consuming countries, using buffer stocks but with production and/or export quotas in reserve, offer the most promising prospects although cautions the committee, "they should not be regarded as a panacea for all ills".

A Common Fund, available to all international commodity agreements, would afford economic benefits, as coming from one who has devoted himself with unflagging zeal and energy over more than half a century to the pursuit of means of achieving economic stability", they nevertheless reject his proposals.

The committee says that a good case has been made for appropriate action for the 10 "core" commodities chosen by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Umtata) for early consideration if a Common Fund were established. The commodities are sugar, coffee, cocoa, tea, cotton, jute, hard fibres,

rubber, copper and tin.

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Foden's board and its adviser, County Bank, are carefully considering the revised offers. In the meantime shareholders are advised to take no action.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank ... 8½% Consolidated Credt ... 8½% First London Secs ... 8½% C. Hoare & Co ... 8½% Lloyds Bank ... 8½% Midland Bank ... 8½% Nat. Westminster ... 8½% Rossminster Accs ... 8½% Shenley Trust ... 11½% Williams & Glyn's 8½%

* 7 day deposits on sum of £10,000 and under. 8½% up to £25,000. 8½% over

Brent Walker's Middle Eastern hotel promise

SAINT PIRAN

Thanks to planned higher output at South Crofty and in Madras, and better tin prices as well as improved housebuilding prospects in United Kingdom, board confident of substantial profits this year.

ROBERT KITCHEN TAYLOR

Advertiser says that to former director contravened provisions of Section 190 of Companies Act 1948.

STANLEY GIBBONS

Acceptances have been received in respect of 3m new ordinary shares (98.04 per cent of the total).

Briefly

management and building know-how and a Korean company has taken up the workers.

The Cairo hotel is the first in a string throughout the Middle East spearheaded by Brent Walker, which has linked with a Kuwait group to provide first-class hotels. Baghdad is to get the next and it will probably cost at least £17.5m.

Looking a bit farther ahead, Chloride talks of the sodium sulphur battery which could save the weight of a lead acid battery and outperform it. Chloride is making "solid progress" but development and testing must go on for a further year or two to be sure.

If Chloride's hopes are fulfilled, this battery will be much more important than the present strike. At 107p the shares are still riding high. The 1976/7 peak was 119p.

The chairman now adds:

"The stock is taken up by Mr Michael Edwards, chairman, who recalls that last time out, stopped at the two plants was in 1967 when the standstill was for days.

But this particular strike and it started just after mid-May, at Clifton Junction, Manchester, and at Dagenham in Essex. Early in June when the strike was three weeks old, workers were warned that jobs were at stake.

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